



READINESS OVERVIEW

US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DISTRICT 5 - NORTHERN REGION

DISTRICT 5 NR READINESS OVERVIEW

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Auxiliary Policy, Admiral R. J. Papp's Commandant USCG

This message is from the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and is the official policy in which the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will operate. This is the governing document that our Commodores operate under.



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Washington, DC 20593

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY POLICY STATEMENT

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is our steadfast volunteer corps. Our Auxiliary Shipmates assist the Coast Guard with performing our many challenging maritime missions, with boating safety remaining as their core function. Proudly serving alongside our total workforce, Auxiliarists make it possible to more ably accomplish our missions – they are a true force multiplier.

Originally formed as the Coast Guard volunteer Reserve on June 23, 1939, the volunteer Reserve was renamed the Auxiliary two years later. The Auxiliary rapidly expanded as the United States entered WWII, and Auxiliarists assisted in many of the Coast Guard's domestic missions, freeing up active duty Coast Guardsmen for wartime operations.

Today's Auxiliary is defined by this same spirit of patriotism and volunteerism. Auxiliarists continue to lend their unique talents to assist with performing a broad range of Coast Guard missions. Their mission support efforts expand the reach and impact of Coast Guard operations, particularly boating safety initiatives.

The Auxiliary Service priorities include:

- **Promoting and Improving Recreational Boating Safety;**
- Providing trained crews and facilities to augment the Coast Guard and enhance safety and security of our ports, waterways and coastal regions;
- Supporting Coast Guard operational, administrative and logistical requirements.

We must always remember that it is through public spirit, patriotism and an uncommon sense of civic duty that the members of the Auxiliary give their time, facilities and services – they receive no compensation. Commanders, Commanding Officers, Officers-in-Charge and program managers shall continually strive to enhance *Silver and Gold* partnerships to further the work of the Coast Guard.

I am personally committed to ensuring we maintain an Auxiliary that is robust, well-trained, and always ready.

R. J. PAPP, JR
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

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Forward

The Auxiliary has proven its organizational resiliency and capacity to handle significant challenges. It effectively institutionalized mandatory background check requirements for its membership and all new enrollees, it implemented the most sweeping changes in its history to its organizational structure from national to flotilla levels, and it considerably broadened the spectrum of its support to Coast Guard missions, units, and personnel.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 further expanded the role of the Auxiliary allowing the Commandant to authorize the performance of any Coast Guard function, duty, role, mission, or operation to the Auxiliary. The only exception is law enforcement duties.

An extremely good relationship exists between the District Five Northern Region Auxiliary (D5NR), Sector Delaware Bay, Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, the Coast Guard Training Center Cape May and all other CG commands located in the D5NR region. Additionally, superior relationships have been established with state and Local partners and the state boating law administrators of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. There are Memorandums of Agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Delaware assists financially with the Auxiliary SARDET in the state. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has provided grants which provided money for expenses incurred by Auxiliaries doing vessel safety checks, public education courses and patrols in less densely populated areas of Pennsylvania.

The significance and value of Auxiliary support to recreational boating safety, search and rescue, marine safety and environmental protection, maritime domain awareness, waterways and coastal security, and many other Coast Guard missions have never been greater and they remain essential to our nation's maritime homeland security. The Auxiliary will continually be challenged to support America's changing maritime safety and security needs.

This document is intended to collect and identify all plans and documents that are designed to provide specific details to implement Auxiliary response or support to the Coast Guard in the event of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. It also identifies Division Surge Operational Plans designed to provide support to back-fill active duty Coast Guard units and/or other government agencies during a time when personnel or resources are unavailable due to a large scale incident or need.

We extend our deep gratitude to the extraordinary Auxiliaries and Coast Guard service members who assisted in developing these documents. We wish you all the best as you carry out your duties and responsibilities in support of the Coast Guard and the Nation. Your continued support and dedication are greatly appreciated. Semper Paratus!



CDR TERRY M. JOHNS
Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)
U.S. Coast Guard



HAROLD T. ROBINSON
District Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

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1.0. Readiness Team Goal and Mission

A District Readiness Team has been established to make sure we use all of our resources effectively to solve and respond to the various contingencies involved in Coast Guard planning and to be able to provide capable support in times of need.

The Readiness Team mission is to improve our readiness capability and develop a broad map of how best to accomplish emergency and contingency plans in 5NR. Emergency response capability for our Auxiliary District is dependent upon proper planning and allocation of resources. District mapping of assets is a priority, as well as up-to-date OPR III lists. Division Surge Plans particularly are intended to meet the needs of active duty unit/stations, but they are also prepared for remote areas located beyond the scope of regular Coast Guard facilities. Adequate communications (radio, etc.) are also an important part of the readiness issue as well as maintaining a member notification system.

2.0. Readiness Overview Purpose

This document is intended for use by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary units in District 5NR. It specifies the actions necessary for units to prepare train and respond to natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. It is not intended to limit the roles the Auxiliary may be called upon to play, but to identify those for which the Auxiliary can and should be prepared. Further, this report identifies the resources and Auxiliary programs that exist to support a response when called upon by USCG Sector Delaware Bay.

3.0. Scope of this Overview

This overview focuses on response, rather than prevention. The Auxiliary has several programs designed to help prevent human-initiated disasters and public emergencies. These programs include America's Waterway Watch, Maritime Domain Awareness, harbor patrols, vessel inspections, and similar activities. This document deals only with response and preparedness to respond to disaster and emergencies after it has occurred.

This overview is intended to collect and identify all plans and documents that are designed to provide specific details to implement Auxiliary response or support to the Coast Guard in the event of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. These documents are not included herein but are identified by reference in Section 11.0.

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4.0. Relationship of This Overview to Other Documents

The Overview and referenced planning documents is intended to be consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF). The Incident Command System (ICS) organization shall be employed by operational commanders in the event of significant emergencies. Accordingly, it is important that key Auxiliary participants in this plan are familiar with and properly trained in ICS organization, including as a minimum, completion of ICS 100 and 200 and NIMS 700 and 800 training (all available on-line).

The provisions of this Auxiliary document will be modified as necessary to accord with USCG Sector Delaware Bay plans and intentions regarding use of the Auxiliary, both in general and to respond to specific disasters and emergencies.

5.0. Contingency/Emergency Response Plan

The Contingency/Emergency Response Plan is available as a separate chapter within the 5NR District Policy Manual D5NRINST M16790.1 (series) available on the 5NR website at <http://www.5nr.org/member/forms/manuals.php>. A stand-alone document titled "5NR USCG Auxiliary Contingency/Emergency Response Plan" is also available on the same 5NR website. The document contains additional appendices and updated information.

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks upon the U.S., the nature of emergency response has significantly changed. Consideration must be made to emergencies including severe weather, natural disaster, oil spills and disasters involving mass casualties.

The Contingency/Emergency Response Plan is intended for use by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary units in District 5NR. It specifies the actions necessary for these units to prepare for, and respond to, natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. It is not intended to limit the roles the Auxiliary may be called upon to play, but to identify those for which the Auxiliary response is capable and appropriate.

As the situation dictates, Sector Delaware Bay may solicit the use of available Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary assets to augment Sector operations. This operational augmentation may include communications support and transportation on land and on water.

The Plan includes scenarios for possible Auxiliary participation in the response to a disaster or emergency such as: victim recovery (i.e., rescue of persons in the water), safety zone enforcement, personnel transport, emergency communications, situation assessment, "backfill", and secondary personnel support.

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6.0. Everbridge Notification System

The Everbridge Notification System is an important and opportune method of quickly contacting Auxiliary members in emergency and disaster situations to provide information and to respond to Coast Guard needs. With Everbridge, an authorized member can communicate critical information to an entire Division or the District. Everbridge cycles through mobile phones, landlines and email. This emergency notification system contacts individuals based on their preferences and stops sending messages after a recipient confirms receipt (or the system is told to stop). The system is rapid enough to complete a cycle to the entire District within a minute. The system keeps a record of all contact attempts and their results. When called upon to provide 100% accountability, the District can quickly prepare a report, using Everbridge response data, allowing Division and Flotilla leaders to concentrate their efforts on communicating with the non-responsive members.

7.0. Division Surge Operations Plans

Surge is the ability of the Auxiliary in District 5NR to back-fill active duty Coast Guard units and/or other government agencies during a time when personnel or resources are unavailable due to a large scale incident or need. Essentially, the Auxiliary would supply personnel or resources to fill gaps caused by government personnel or resources deployed elsewhere or fill a need for additional resources. The plans have been developed in accordance with the requirements as outlined in Phase III of Operation Patriot Readiness.

Surge Plans provide planning, directions, and lists of available resources, including logistical and operational support, those Auxiliary units which may provide for efficient and timely implementation by the Coast Guard and other government agencies in the event of disaster, incident, or severe weather. This planning is developed before the need exists, so that Auxiliary and Coast Guard units can respond to incidents in an appropriate manner agreed in advance by all parties enabling a rapid coordinated response.

Twelve Auxiliary plans have been developed for District 5NR.

- Individual Divisions 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 16
- Combined Divisions 1 and 4
- Combined Divisions 2 and 13
- Combined Divisions 10 and 11

A copy of each plan is retained by the respective division(s) and is available, by request through the appropriate chain of leadership, from the Division Commander. Copies are also maintained by USCG Sector Delaware Bay- Chief of Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Division.

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8.0. OPR Document

The OPR Report is a computer document (Excel Spreadsheet) that lists all of 5NR resources, skills, and availability that would be useful to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary in the event of an emergency or during surge operation. The report is generated at the district level on the first of the month basis to keep it in close sync with the AUXDATA database. The report includes, in a user friendly way, all of the AUXDATA operational support information plus locally collected additional 5NR information. The updated OPR report is sent out to all Division Commanders and Senior Contact Officers at the district level once a month.

The report has grown over the years to include a lot of contingency value information that is needed and used by Division/Flotilla Commanders, Member Training Officers, Operations Officers, and Human Resources Officers to more effectively manage their organizations and functional commands. The Report puts all of the necessary information into one file, with programmed mechanisms included that allow the user to search out required data, sort it, and provide it in a user friendly, off-line manner versus the searching through multiple AUXDATA screens to pull the information together plus requiring an on-line access.

Some of the major sections of the report are manpower, vocational skills, qualifications currency, boats, radios, aircraft, personnel availability, ICS skills and statistics. These categories then further break down to give locations, division/flotilla break downs, certification standings/requirements, inspected/non-inspected facilities, etc.

9.0. Readiness Drills and Exercises

A key element in readiness is a program of response exercises and drills. This program is designed to demonstrate the degree to which the coordination, response and training measures incorporated in the plans are effective. These activities include:

- Table top or function exercises which involve discussions of simulated scenarios to examine and validate coordination, command and control.
- Drills which are coordinated on the ground activities to test specific operations or functions.
- Full scale exercises which are also on the ground, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional exercises to test coordination, command and control.

The program will point up any gaps in the planning and training and will determine what corrective measures, if any, are necessary to ensure the effectiveness of our readiness.

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10.0. Other Auxiliary Readiness Resources

With the passage of the Auxiliary legislation in October 1996, the Auxiliary's role was greatly expanded to enable Auxiliary participation in any Coast Guard mission authorized by the Commandant. In general, this law opens all Coast Guard mission areas to the Auxiliary, with the exception of combat and direct law enforcement. Listed below are potential Auxiliary resources that the Coast Guard or other agencies may use in the event of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.

10.1. Auxiliary Chef (AUXCHEF)

Qualified Auxiliarists are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment food service programs at Coast Guard units. Auxiliarists who perform such duties at Coast Guard units or special events shall complete the AUXCHEF training program to qualify and demonstrate proficiency in Coast Guard food service procedures and practices.

10.2. Administrative Support to Units

Auxiliarists are authorized assignment to duty to assist and to augment administrative functions of any Coast Guard unit.

10.3. Navigation Systems

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment the Coast Guard's navigation systems (NS) program. This includes verifying position and characteristics of private aids-to-navigation (PATON), after qualifying as an aid verifier (AV). Auxiliarists may assist and support aids-to-navigation (ATON) units in servicing Federal aids after receiving proper Coast Guard training. Auxiliarists may also help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) in updating nautical and aeronautical charts and publications.

10.4. Bridge Program

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment bridge surveys, investigate and provide information regarding waterways safety and navigation situations pertaining to the bridge program, and provide direct assistance and support to bridge program personnel.

10.5. Civil Air Patrol Support

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities may be authorized assignment to duty to assist the Civil Air Patrol (CAP)/Air Force Auxiliary (AFA) in conducting authorized joint USCGAUX-CAP missions.

10.6. Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to assist the marine safety, security, and environmental protection (MSSEP) programs. Auxiliarists may provide facilities and personnel for PE, support of pollution prevention activities, environmental disaster relief operations, and other assistance as needed at Coast Guard Sectors, Marine Safety Units, and Marine Safety Detachments.

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10.7. Operational Support

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support all Coast Guard operational units. Auxiliarists must be qualified in accordance with current Coast Guard manual and directive provisions, and must serve under the Coast Guard active duty unit commander's direction.

10.7.1. Surface Operations

The Auxiliary Surface Operations Program enlists a group of dedicated volunteers and their vessels to promote boating safety, extend the Coast Guard's maritime domain awareness, and provide search and rescue capability to the citizens of the United States and its territories. The Auxiliary's surface operation fleet provides a visible Coast Guard presence in the nation's ports, coastal areas and other waterways. By virtue of their training and qualification, this force stands ready to respond providing a surge capacity for the US Coast Guard.

Auxiliary multi mission patrols are conducted aboard vessels accepted for use and equipped to conduct the mission profile. Vessels of all sorts, including power, sail and personal watercraft, can be Auxiliary platforms. Auxiliary members train to rigorous standards, patterned after the Coast Guard's own boat qualification program.

10.7.2. Air Operations (AUXAIR)

AUXAIR is an Auxiliary operational program, but organized on a district level rather than on a flotilla and division basis. AUXAIR aviators have varied aviation backgrounds and many have prior military experience. AUXAIR aviators volunteer their aircraft for use as facilities, just as surface operators volunteer their boats. All Auxiliary aircraft meet strict U.S. Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration requirements. These aircraft are inspected annually per the Commandant's instruction.

As with surface operators, air facility operators are issued patrol orders. Orders are issued based on schedules created by crew and facility availability and the needs of the Coast Guard. Coast Guard Air Stations are the Order Issuing Authority for AUXAIR. This alignment of Auxiliary aviation assets in a district with an Air Station is known as the "squadron concept", because aviation orders and direction flow directly between the Air Station and the district aviation staff.

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10.8. Port Safety and Security

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support the Port Safety and Security (PSS) Program. Auxiliarists may:

- a. Provide facilities to perform the Maritime Observation Missions (MOM), a non-law enforcement mission whose primary purpose is to provide increased maritime domain awareness by observing areas of interest and reporting findings to the operational commander while maintaining the safety of Auxiliary personnel.
- b. Perform harbor and anchorage patrols.
- c. Provide assistance to Coast Guard Forces in safety and security zone enforcement, mostly in the form of boater education/advisement areas.
- d. Provide support for low risk armed/unarmed vessel boarding.
- e. Perform port facility and vessel verification visits.
- f. Perform aircraft over flights.
- g. Augment Coast Guard crews.
- h. Perform additional administrative support.

10.9. Public Affairs Support

Auxiliarists are authorized assignment to duty to support Coast Guard and Auxiliary Public Affairs programs as described in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs Officer's Guide, COMDTINST M5728.3 (series).

10.10. Search and Rescue

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities may be authorized assignment to duty to assist with and conduct search and rescue operations in support of the Coast Guard. These duties include search planning, communications support, and search and rescue operations in navigable and sole State waters.

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11.0. Reference Material

D5NRINST M16790.1 (series) Fifth District Northern Region Auxiliary Policy Manual

5NR USCG Auxiliary Contingency/Emergency Response Plan

Surge Operations Plan Division 3 in Support of Station (Small) Philadelphia, and Station (Small) Fortescue

Surge Operations Plan Division 5 in Support of Western Area Agencies

Surge Operations Plan Division 6 in Support of SARDET Bordentown

Surge Operations Plan Division 7 in Support of Station Barnegat Light and Station (Small) Beach Haven

Surge Operations Plan Division 8 in Support of Station (Small) Atlantic City, Station (Small) Great Egg, Station Cape May and Station (Small) Townsend Inlet

Surge Operations Plan Division 12 in Support of Station Indian River, SARDET Bowers Beach and Station (Small) Roosevelt Inlet

Surge Operations Plan Division 14 in Support of Western Area Agencies

Surge Operations Plan Division 15 in Support of PA Fish and Boat Commission, Local Water Rescue Agencies and FEMA

Surge Operations Plan Division 16 in Support of Station Manasquan Inlet and Station (Small) Shark River

Surge Operations Plan Division 1 and 4 in Support of Station (Small) Philadelphia and Station (Small) Salem/SARDET Wilmington

Surge Operations Plan Division 2 and 13 in Support of Station (Small) Philadelphia and CG Sector Delaware Bay

Surge Operations Plan Division 10 and 11 in Support of CG Sector Delaware Bay and Local Agencies

OPR Report

Readiness Drills and Exercises