

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT

The Coast Guard has operated in a complex maritime environment for more than 200 years, exercising our unique authorities while deploying a broad range of capabilities to guarantee U.S. maritime safety, security and stewardship. We are a military, multi-mission, and maritime service committed to ensuring the safety and environmental health of the public we serve as well as our own people. Superior mission execution is our primary objective. A vital condition of successful mission execution is the safety and environmental health of our people and the equipment they are entrusted with operating. Without it, we endanger our people and jeopardize the mission.

Successful mission execution begins with a thorough understanding of the environment in which we operate. Based on that understanding, we employ tested operational concepts, acquire and employ equipment suitable for the mission, and ensure our people have adequate training and education needed to do their jobs. We build on that foundation by conducting continuous drills and exercises, by improving our personal skills, and by maintaining our equipment at the highest state of readiness. In short, consistently successful performance requires thorough preparation.

The Coast Guard's fundamental safety and environmental health principle, applicable at every level in the organization for every mission or activity, is to continually manage the safety and environmental health risks confronting Coast Guard personnel in their professional and private lives. While we cannot reasonably remove all levels of risk inherent in our daily operations, we can strive to reduce those risks to keep them within acceptable limits. Unnecessary risks, however, have no place in the workplace or our daily lives. This principle is applied by identifying potential hazards, assessing the risks associated with those hazards, and controlling risks to acceptable levels, consistent with the mission or activity being performed. Reducing risks protects individual members while reducing fatalities, the incidence of injury and disease, and the loss of property, ultimately preserving mission readiness.

Every commanding officer, officer-in-charge, and supervisor is responsible and accountable for ensuring that effective safety risk management principles are incorporated into the planning and execution of every evolution and activity. Each member of the Coast Guard has a personal responsibility for effectively managing risks associated with their own activities, both on and off duty, and to safeguard themselves, their families and their fellow workers from harm. These responsibilities cannot be delegated and must not be compromised.

Sustaining superior mission execution requires that we all employ safe tactics and doctrine to preserve the health and safety of our personnel. I charge each of you with joining me in honoring this commitment.



THAD W. ALLEN
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant

