



August 17, 2007

USCGD17 SAFETY ALERT: PV003-2007

Juneau, AK

Background: The Seventeenth Coast Guard District Small Passenger Vessel Safety Alert program was developed to provide timely safety related information to mariners. This program is part of an ongoing effort to apply Prevention through People (PTP) principles to improve safety.

Safety Vigilance:

- The Alaska 2007 summer season is almost 2/3 complete. From a "Safety View", the season has been successful. The responses to the high profile events experienced early in the season were well executed, and indicate a high level of emergency response preparedness and training by both industry and government. Since the events of early season, it has been quiet. But let's not forget we still have a final, busy 45-60 days to go before the end of the main tourist season. A lot can happen in this final race to season's end. With some simple effort, we can ensure that what happens is positive and safe.
- Many seasonally experienced employees have departed (or will soon) to return to school. Replacements, if available, will need to be hired and trained. Remaining crew may be tasked with working harder to cover until replacements are qualified. New employees will need time and training to adjust and learn to operate as part of your team. Certainly there is likelihood here for confusion, especially for new personnel. Now is the time to eliminate any confusion that may exist.

Recommended Action: During this late season operational period, operators are encouraged to:

- Remain "safety vigilant". **DO NOT BE COMPLACENT** when it comes to operational safety.
- Make the time to review and emphasize your standards of care, safety expectations and operational procedures with all members of your team. Regular short safety briefs are encouraged.
- Train and orientate new employees. Make sure they have the tools to succeed not only on a daily basis but also during an emergency.
- Emphasize situational awareness and bridge resource management procedures for all crew members.
- Review emergency response procedures. Continue to conduct your emergency response drills.
- Conduct safety checks or audits for all vessels in your fleet. Observe your crews in action. Identify and correct issues before they become habits.
- Ensure your vessels continue to meet all regulatory requirements. If questions arise, contact your local Coast Guard Sector Command or Marine Safety Detachment. Fix those little problems today before they become the big problems tomorrow.

Emergency Assistance: All vessels in distress are reminded to notify USCG immediately via VHF CH16, DMGSS or other available means. This will ensure SAR agencies and resources are rapidly alerted and dispatched as required by the incident.