

Today, (3/2/2004) the March issue of Boat US, page 8, states Flare Gun Alert completely:

FLARE GUN ALERT

The USCG office of Boating Safety has issued a notice alerting users of Olin flare guns of a possible defect in some guns. Olin (now Orion Safety Products) 12 gauge flare guns manufactured before 2000 may not open wide enough to accept flare cartridges.

The Coast Guard is asking all boaters with the older flare guns to test loading a cartridge as soon as possible and also at the beginning of every boating season. If your flare gun has this defect, you're asked to send it back for replacement to: Orion Safety Products, Marine Division, 3157N, 500W, Peru, IN 46970.

Modified guns made to correct the defective opening mechanism are marked with a Coast Guard approval code, 160028/12/1, Flare Gun Malfunction Alert.

All recreational vessels on US waters, regardless of type or size, must carry on board US Coast Guard-approved visual distress signals. The devices must be in serviceable condition and readily accessible; be sure to check the expiration date on any flares on board."