

# **UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®**

## **Educational Department**

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### **EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT NOTICE No. 90**

**Issue Date: 1 December 2009**

**Effective Immediately**

TO: All Squadron Educational Officers  
COPY: District Educational Officers  
Squadron Commanders  
District Commanders  
National Educational Department Staff  
Members of the Operating Committee

#### **SUBJECT: USPS Educational Department Policy Regarding On-the-Water Training**

As a result of our Boat Operators Certification program, USPS has negotiated insurance coverage that provides support for on-the-water training activities. This coverage is managed by the Treasurer's Department. We developed on-the-water certification procedures as part of the BOC program with the support of our partner, U.S. Sailing.

We have also developed seminars that explain methods and approaches to boat handling for which structured companion on-the-water training programs are being implemented. Much of the on-the-water training program development is supported by a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard. These programs will extend beyond the basic BOC skill certification.

Now that we have negotiated on-the-water insurance coverage, it is essential that we coordinate and control implementation of any programs. Therefore, from this point forward, USPS seeks to provide effective on-the-water training in concert with safe practices and consistent with coverage provided under our insurance program. To better manage these programs, all on-the-water training programs will be managed by our new Boat Operator Certification and Training Committee.

Any squadron that seeks to offer on-the-water training will be required to use programs that have been approved by the Boat Operator Certification and Training Committee. If a squadron seeks to use any other program incorporating any element of on-the-water training, it must be first be reviewed and approved by the BOC&T Committee.

Each on-the-water program will include procedures and protocols that ensure adequate pre-departure preparation of instructors, equipment, and students; and provide for detailed on water procedures and criteria for successful completion of each maneuver being trained. This material will be submitted to the Committee for review and approval. It is also our intent to make these approved programs available for other squadrons to use based on their content and success. This enables us to share content as well as assure a consistent level of performance.

Any squadron offering on-the-water training will utilize only those programs that have been approved by the Committee. This enables us to minimize risks and unnecessary utilization of coverage under our insurance program. For the purposes of insurance coverage, each training program also must be pre-scheduled and approved by the squadron educational officer or his designee, or district educational officer, having jurisdiction.

V/C Robert J. Sweet, SN  
National Educational Officer

*Please note the contents of this EDN and advise all concerned*