



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
June 2021**

To: COMO Dean McFarren
 Curtis Han, District Chief of Staff (DCOS)
 District 11 North Board & Staff
 From: COMO Wally Smith, District Staff Officer – Operations (DSO-OP)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The annual 1-hour Surface Operations Workshop and the Risk Management Refresher presentations are underway and must be taken by 30 June.
2. The number of boat crew members & coxswains due for requalification in 2021 totals 59, and in 2022 the number is 93.
3. OPTREX Calendar
4. The “QE Request Requirements” form is available on the Surface Operations web page under Response.
5. Lack of Division Operations Reports
6. Addendum to Report: “Can You Tell When a Person is Drowning?”

DETAILS

1. Both the Ops Workshop and TCT Risk Management Refresher are required annually to maintain currency. Check the District Training Calendar for upcoming dates. Keep in mind that there are no pre-registrations necessary for the Ops Workshop; the number of attendees is unlimited. Advance signups are required for the RM Refresher and class sizes are limited to eight; sign up with Ann Zocchi, DSO-MT.
2. Below is a spreadsheet indicating the number of coxswains and crew due this year for check rides, broken down by Division, from a report produced by our OTO, BOSN Dustin Finkleson:

Requalification Candidates – as of 09 June

<u>Division</u>	<u>Coxswain</u>	<u>Crew</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	0	2	2
3	3	3	6
4	1	5	6
5	2	3	5
6	2	6	8
7	6	5	11
8	5	7	12
10	2	2	4



11	0	3	3
12	1	1	3
	22	37	59

Note: These totals do not include candidates for initial qualification.

3. OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

<u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2021</u>		
<u>Division(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10	Stockton	25 June
4	Port of Redwood City	31 July
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	6 – 7 August
3	Sacramento Yacht Club	14 August
11	CGSTA Lake Tahoe	28 August
6	Santa Cruz Harbor	11 – 12 September
Flt 55	CGSTA Bodega Bay	24 – 26 September
10	Millerton Lake	24 – 26 September
1	Loch Lomond YC, San Rafael	1 – 2 October
12	Marina Bay YC, Richmond	15 - 16 October

- The “QE Request Requirements” document is posted on the Surface Operation web page. Please review it in its entirety prior to requesting a Qualification Examiner. It is very important that all candidates are pre-vetted per the requirements and process as delineated.
- Of the ten Divisions, four submitted an Operations Report for the month of May!

Division Reports
(in their entirety)

Division 1

No report submitted

Division 3

From: John Hardin, Div. 3 SO-OP

Highlights:

- Pointing Is Not Rude**
- Psychogenic Shock**



Details

1. Pointing Is Not Rude

During our man overboard drills, we are taught to designate one person as the pointer tracking the person in the water until it is no longer necessary. The purpose is to make sure we never lose sight of the person.

Pictured below is a CG cutter conducting a SAR action related to the tragic capsizing of a lift boat off the Louisiana Gulf Coast recently. Notice multiple crew members are pointing.

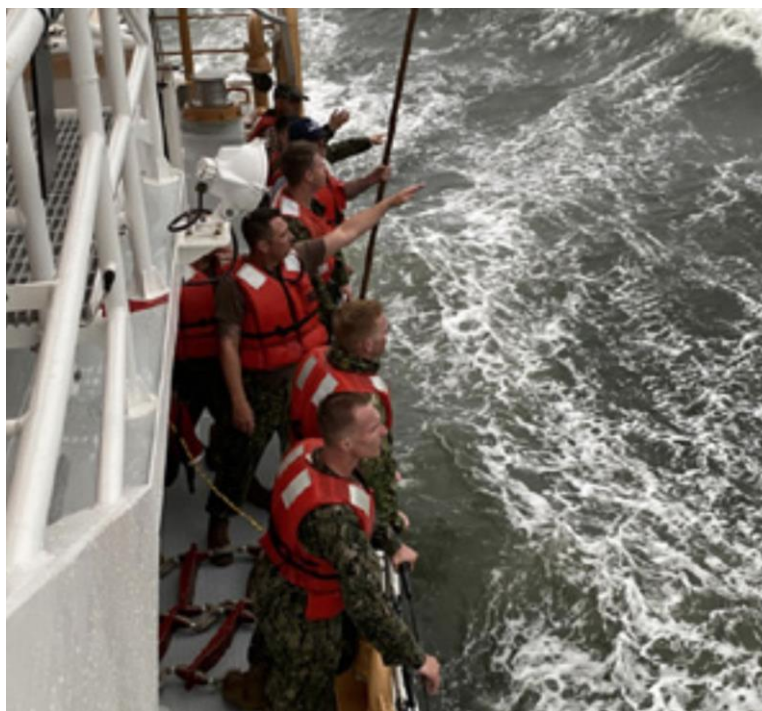
2. Psychogenic Shock

Often we associate shock with a physical injury. However, extreme fear can also bring on shock or more specifically Psychogenic Shock.

Recently an individual was observed afloat in choppy and congested waters after falling off a PWC. She repeatedly stating that she couldn't swim and believed she was about to drown. Her PFC was undersized and water splashed over her face. She was truly "scared to death".

After considerable effort, she was brought aboard the facility. She was not able to respond to questions and remained fearful and confused. However, after prolonged reassurances by a crewmember that she would be "ok", her fear eventually dissipated to the point that she began to act "normally".

I guess we should put "counseling" in our bag of tricks.





Division 4

No report submitted.

Division 5

No report submitted

Division 6

No report submitted

Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

Highlights:

1. We are now in Phase 3 of D11's COVID-19 guidelines
2. TCT and OPS refresher courses due June 30th.
3. Our OPTREX is Aug 6-7 at Jordanelle State Park.
4. PPE needs to be inspected and brought into service
5. Get out and practice
6. Attached is the District Operations report. Please read it and send it out to your members.
7. Directions, corrections and information from Diraux supersedes this report.

Details:

1. We are now in Phase 3 of D11's COVID-19 guidelines and these are the activities authorized: *Private Aids to Navigation and Bridge Verifications, Life Jacket Wear Rate Observations, Marine Dealer/ RBS Program Visits, Public Education, Telecommunications, Vessel Safety Checks, OPFAC Inspections, RBS Public Outreach, In-person meetings, and Proctoring.* **The following activities may be completed under Phase 3 if requested and approved by the appropriate Order Issuing Authority (OIA): Operational missions.** In order to be assigned to duty for these activities, you shall follow all personnel protective equipment and training requirements. Please refer to email recently sent out by our Commodore Dean McFarren for all the details.
 - a. Everyone needs to have an updated High-Risk Assessment Form with vaccine info on file. The High-Risk Assessment Form can be found at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations> **Once filled out, send to DIRAUX at D11-SMB-D11AUX-Northern@uscg.mil**
 - b. Everyone must pass the Blood Borne Pathogens course and send in the results to DIRAUX D11-SMB-D11AUX-Northern@uscg.mil. Blood Borne Pathogen training can be found at <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>.



- c. You must request an Assignment of Duty Request for each mission you wish to participate in such as Patrol, Program Visits or Vessel Exams. **This only has to be done once** and Diraux will send you a conformation email for each type of Assignment for Duty you request. Requests for Assignment of Duty can be found on the District's website under Response,
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations>
2. TCT and OPS refresher courses are being taught online by the District. Anyone who wishes to participate in OPS duties must complete both by June 30th. Sign up for a training slot by going to the Districts Member Training calendar at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=mt-calendar> and follow the instructions on the calendar.
3. Our OPTREX is Aug 6-7 at Jordanelle State Park. It will be a busy one since it will be two years of check rides for a total of 18 so far. That is does not include any new candidates. When and where possible, we will be doing single or double boat QE sessions. These sessions will be by invitation and with Districts approval. We need to be able to do the perform the tasks proficiently and without prompting, this means we need to get out on the water and practice, see item 5.
4. Your PPE needs to be inspected and brought into service. Let your FSO-MA or FC know when you have done the inspections. Use the PPE job aids to help you with your inspection. The PPE inspection job aids can be found at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=forms-downloads> (at the bottom of the page). If you need any new PPE, contact your FSO-MA or FC.
5. Get out and practice, practice, practice. It has been since the fall of 2019 that any of us have been out doing any operations so we will be rusty.
 - a. Take your time to refamiliarize yourself with the facility whether is a boat or radio. Practice maneuvering the vessel in and around the docks.
 - b. Refresh your anchoring process, your man over board, and SAR patterns while you patrol.
 - c. When possible, practice your close quarters boat handling. You can use the docks as a second vessel to simulate a tow.
 - d. Don't forget knots. Practice tying them.
 - e. Please have fun and be safe.

Division 8

From: Dave Johnson, SO-OP



Redding 08-39

OPS activity included Memorial Weekend patrols on Saturday and Sunday on Whiskeytown Lake for regatta support. Eagle One and REDJET were the facilities with 6 crew/coxswains on Saturday and 4 crew/coxswains on Sunday. No incidents. Lake Shasta, Trinity, and Lake Oroville may soon be inaccessible due to low water. Whiskeytown may soon be the only lake in the region with adequate water level for launching.

Crescent City 08-11

No OPS Activity no report

Lake County 08-88

May saw us resume surface ops with three boat patrols and two PWC patrols. There were two trainees underway with us. All crew and trainees are fully vaccinated against c-19.

We have scheduled Zoom training sessions for remedial education as well as exposure to new candidates.

Record low water conditions have created challenges for us, although there are still viable boat ramps available at this time.

Mendocino 08-87

FSO-OP: Ops activity during May 2021 was limited to fuel farm routine weekly recirculation and fuel testing;

End of DIV OPS Report

Division 10

No report submitted

Division 11

No report submitted

Division 12

HIGHLIGHTS

- DIV12 Surface Operational OPFACS & STATUS



- a) AQUAMARINE – Non-Operational
- b) SERVANT – Operational
- c) ODYSSEY – Non-Operational
- d) SWEETWATER – Non-Operational
- Working and training for 10 July check rides with QEs COMO Angelo Perata and Mark McLaughlin.
 - oThe following members will be going for their check rides on OPFAC SERVANT:
 - Greg Olsen, Boat Crew
 - Jim Losi, Coxswain
 - Morgan Swiggett, Boat Crew Trainee
 - Pete Gorenberg, Boat Crew
- Have been working with Terry Blanchard and the crew of OPFAC SILVER CHARM on two boat training. By the time of the check rides, we will have had three days of two boat training.
- Sue Fry has been instrumental along with LTjg CONNELL in gaining access to YBI for our two boat training.

Projects

- Check Ride Program for coxswains and boat crew members and trainees
- Recruiting members with prospective OPFACs

Future Activities

- Check rides of 10 July
- **Participation in the Division 4 31 July OPTREX**
-

Challenges

- Allocation of time
- Demands from members requesting check rides earlier in the year rather than the 4Q21.

Goals and Objectives

- Get as many members as possible ready for their check rides.
- Training excellence and mission excellence.

*** END OF REPORT ***

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



SEMPER GUMBY!



ADDENDUM TO REPORT – SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL BROWN

Can You Tell When a Person is Drowning?

A swimmer doesn't splash and wave for help. Here's how to know when someone is in trouble, and how to respond.

MARIO VITTONI

UPDATED: JUL 2, 2019



The captain jumped from the deck, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim and headed straight for a couple who were swimming between their anchored sportfish and the beach. "I think he thinks you're drowning," the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other, and she had screamed, but now they were just standing neck-deep on a sandbar.

"We're fine, what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed.



"We're fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard toward him.

"Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not 10 feet away, their 9-year-old daughter was drowning. Once the girl was safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears and screamed, "Daddy!"

How did this captain know—from 50 feet away—what the father couldn't recognize from just 10? Drowning is not the violent, splashing call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, assumed he knew what drowning looks like because he watched television.

Former lifeguard Frank Pia, Ph.D. captured a drowning event and rescue on camera. The footage can help you recognize when a person is in danger.

Until that young girl who was rescued by the captain cried a tearful "Daddy," the owner's daughter hadn't made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn't surprised at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for is rarely seen in real life.

If you spend time on or near the water, then you should make sure you and your crew know how to detect when a person is in distress. Honing this skill is critical, particularly in light of new statistics that reveal drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children under 5 and the second leading cause of accidental death for children 5 to 15 years old. It is estimated that over 80 percent of childhood drownings occur when the child is supervised. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, well over 50 percent of all drownings are adult men. Yet regardless of who drowns, in some



cases, people are watching or are within yards of the victim and have no idea it is happening.



Mario Vittone

Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D. is the person who coined the term instinctive drowning response. This is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. When someone is drowning there is very little splashing, and no waving, yelling or calling for help of any kind.

Dr. Pia, in an article he wrote for the Coast Guard's *On Scene* magazine, described the instinctive drowning response like this:



- Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is a secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled before speech occurs.
- The mouths of drowning people alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water; they are not above the surface of the water long enough for the victims to exhale, inhale and call out for help. When the mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly before sinking below the surface of the water
- Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.
- Throughout the instinctive drowning response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.
- From beginning to end of the instinctive drowning response, the bodies of drowning people remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs.

This doesn't mean that a person who is yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real trouble—they are experiencing aquatic distress. Not always present before the instinctive drowning response, aquatic distress doesn't last long, but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, reach for throw rings, etc.

There are other visual cues to look for when trying to recognize a drowning person. They include the following:



- Head tilted back with mouth open
- Head low in the water, with mouth at water level
- Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus
- Eyes closed
- Hair over forehead or eyes
- Not using legs
- Hyperventilating or gasping
- Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway
- Trying to roll over onto the back
- Appears to be climbing an invisible ladder

So, if a crewmember falls overboard and everything looks okay, don't be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don't look as if they're drowning. They may just look as if they are treading water and staring up at the deck. One way to be sure? Ask, "Are you alright?" If they can answer at all, they probably are. If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them.

BY
MARIO VITTONI