

Memorandum

Date: October 31, 2019
To: All Patrol Personnel
From: Sheriff's Lt. Butch Arnoldi
Subject: Beached Vessel Protocol - Revised



Per the California Harbors and Navigation Code, Sections 510-527, the Sheriff's Office is tasked with handling all abandoned/beached vessels in County waters. This Beached Vessel Protocol has been revised to ensure the timely removal of the vessel, please carefully review this document.

Upon initial notification, a Patrol Deputy will:

1. Respond to the reported beached vessel and verify there are no persons on board needing medical attention or assistance. Immediately notify the Coast Guard. If the vessel is abandoned, determine the condition and what hazardous materials may be on board. The Coast Guard is responsible for removing all hazardous materials on board (fuel, oil, batteries, etc.). If high tide prevents boarding, return at low tide to complete inspection of the vessel.
2. Post warning and owner notification signs on the vessel. These signs as well as all other information regarding this program is located in the Fileroom/Beached Vessel SAVE Grant folder.
3. Take photos of the vessel from all accessible sides, including close-ups of the CF number and name of the vessel. Process the photos as any other photos. The Patrol Bureau Lieutenant for the area involved will obtain copies from the Forensics Bureau.
4. Complete an incident report to include all known information: how the vessel arrived on the beach (large waves, high winds, cut anchor), CF#, boat name, color, and whether the condition of the vessel is an immediate hazard to the environment or public. Notify the Patrol Bureau Lieutenant for the area involved by email. Include the case number in your email.
5. If the boat owner is not present at the scene, attempt to contact the owner prior to completing the report. Attempt to obtain current contact information, including mailing address. If owner is transient, advise owner to contact the Patrol Bureau Lieutenant where the incident has occurred, i.e., Surf Beach – Central Stations Lieutenant; Cool Oil Point, Isla Vista Beach – Isla Vista Foot Patrol Lieutenant; Goleta Beach, Hope Ranch – Goleta Patrol Bureau

Lieutenant; Butterfly Beach, Padero Lane – Coastal Patrol Bureau Lieutenant; etc. during normal business hours.

The Area of Occurrence Patrol Bureau Lieutenant will be responsible for:

1. Mail (certified) a vessel notification letter to the last known address of the owner. Communicate with the owner if possible and determine if the owner will facilitate removal and disposal of the vessel.
2. Assign Deputies to monitoring the condition of the vessel as prolonged exposure can change a vessel from intact to a severe hazard within a short time period.
3. Contact Marborg Industries for vessel removal if the owner refuses or cannot afford the cost of removal. Assign a Deputy to supervise the removal and complete a CHP-180. The Marborg representative must sign the CHP-180.
4. Mail a letter, advising the vessel was removed and disposed, to the last known address of the owner.
5. Forward and insert all of the above information into the Fileroom/Beached Vessel SAVE Grant folder.

The Coastal Patrol Bureau Sheriff's Lieutenant will remain as the Sheriff's Office Administrator of the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) Program, please feel free to contact the Coastal Patrol Bureau Lieutenant if you have any questions about this protocol.

The Coastal Patrol Bureau Lieutenant as the Grant Administrator will handle all communication and paperwork for any SAVE grant reimbursement with the Department of Boating and Waterways as well as ensure that the grant is renewed as per the terms of the grant.