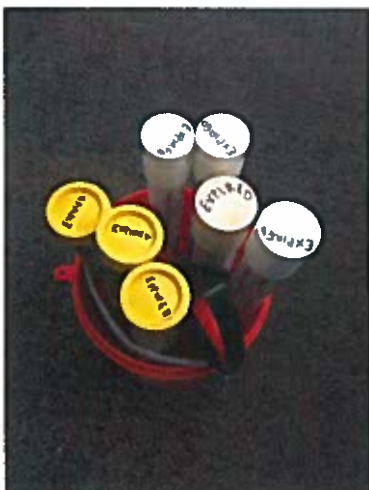


Take My Flares, Please!



It is approaching that time when many Mainers start to think about putting their boats away for the winter. This is a good time to think about what to do with those expired pyrotechnic flares, which the Coast Guard requires to be replaced every 3 to 4 years.

Pyrotechnic flares are classified as hazardous waste, so you cannot dump them in the trash, shoot them off like fireworks, or fire them at sea (unless it's an emergency!). So, what is a mariner to do?

The Maine's Fire Marshal has a solution!

State Fire Marshal Joe Thomas encourages boaters to call his office at (207) 626-3870. His staff will collect and transport expired flares to an EPA-approved kiln that had been purchased to incinerate fireworks and other incendiary devices. This service is free to boaters.

The flares disposal program is a voluntary addition to the staff's regular duties of investigation and enforcement, so it may take a week or two for the Fire Marshal's office to work out arrangements to pick up the expired flares.

Those who have used this free service were impressed. Lifelong sailor Malcolm Poole, a board member of Friends of Casco Bay, comments, "Having the Fire Marshal's office willing to offer this service is a great improvement over storing expired pyrotechnics at home. I found them accommodating and interested in safe disposal of expired flares."

Recently expired Flares may be kept as backup and need not be disposed of!
***** As long as you do have the required nonexpired flares on board! *****