

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**



January 2010

National Safe Boating Campaign

# NEWS

***Boat Smart.  
Boat Safe.  
Wear It!***

## THINK MAY IN JANUARY

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The song says "It's June in January"...but we Public Affairs Officers might well think MAY in January. National Safe Boating Week, (NSBW), our busiest PA event of the year, is only four months away!

NSBW 2010 is May 22-28. It will be the high point of our yearly publicity campaign to promote safe boating. In this new year we'll have many opportunities, climaxing with NSBW, to talk safety to the boating public, keeping in mind the most recent Coast Guard statistics, a compilation of reports on U.S.

recreational boating accidents and fatalities: In 2008 there were 4,789 boating accidents reported, involving 709 deaths, 3,331 injuries and approximately \$54 million dollars of damage to property. Over 2/3 of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of these 90% were not wearing a life jacket.

Our PA Officers from New England to Alaska and from Puerto Rico to Guam, have their work cut out for them. During NSBW and indeed, all during 2010, they'll emphasize safe boating habits at PA exhibits, in talks to civic groups and in their articles to the media, for example. In 2010, the safe boating watchwords remain the same:

**Take a boating safety class.**

**Get a vessel safety check.**

**Wear a life jacket when aboard.**

