



New York Sea Grant's Discover Clean & Safe Boating Campaign is recognized for helping 1st Responders save lives

Clean & Safe Boating Campaign Educates 1st Responders

Since its inception in 2008, the Discover Clean & Safe Boating campaign, developed by New York Sea Grant (NYSG) in partnership with the Boating Industries Association (BIA) of Upstate New York and with extensive support from marine industry representatives, has educated more than half-a-million boaters about how to be legal, safe, and environmentally-friendly on New York waters. In 2014, the campaign added a component for NY's 1st responders.

NYSG Responds

New York's 1st responders handle water-related emergencies which are sadly not uncommon from October into late May. As part of Discover Clean & Safe Boating programming at the 2014 Central New York Boat Show in Syracuse, Cold Water Rescue Training for 1st responders included classroom presentations and in-water demonstrations by NYSG and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Following the training, Oswego County Office of Emergency Management Director Dale Currier, a project partner, received a letter from the City of Oswego Fire Department in appreciation for the training. The letter noted that two of the Department's professional firefighter-paramedics applied the training to save a life within a week of the show.

In interviews, Firefighter-Paramedic Raymond Abbott said, *"Within a week of the training, we responded to a hypothermia call with an unresponsive victim. We applied the training that was a good review for us and the victim later walked out of the hospital without any deficits."* He added, *"Maintaining our own well-being and safety (as emphasized in the training) is a priority so that we can help those in need."*

Firefighter-Paramedic Christopher Stupp noted, *"The work of fire and EMS providers is so diverse now that we are constantly training. The cold survival training at the February boat show refreshed the finer details for a type of call we do not often respond to in the city."*

The partnership with Currier's office provided participants with Continuing Medical Education/CME credits.

At the conclusion of the show, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 21 presented Discover Clean &



In-water safety demonstrations at the 2014 CNY Boat Show; left: US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 21 Commander John Steinborge presents Wear It! Award to NYSG's Dave White. Photos: Brian P. Whattam

Safe Boating Campaign developer David G. White of NYSG with its 2013 Wear It! award for excellence in teaching the public about lifejacket safety. White and Currier each received letters of appreciation from U.S. Coast Guard District 9/Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Boating magazine featured the campaign in August 2014. In November 2014, the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas honored BIA for its outstanding service to the boating industry, in part for its partnership with NYSG to offer member training and clean and safe boating education.

Partners:

- Boating Industries Association of Upstate New York
- CNY Boat Show
- Oswego County Office of Emergency Management
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Marine industry partners
- Syracuse Pool and Patio

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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1/2015