



**Volunteers
Saving Lives
at Sea**

Operations Memorandum

Date: 9 July 2008
To: Unit Leaders
cc: Management Team
From: David Rees-Thomas, Manager of SAR/Operations (sar@ccga-p.ca)
Subject: **Participation in “out-of-water” activities**

Many stations take advantage of statute holidays and local festivities to appear in parades, static displays, and other activities with a view toward recruiting and obtaining publicity. Unfortunately these dates often correspond to increased use of pleasure craft and higher probability of tasking. In the majority of cases, stations are able to resolve the conflict between SAR standby requirements and public relations without needing to withdraw their services for an extended period.

Regrettably it occasionally happens that a station stands down in order to participate in such an event, and an incident occurs in their immediate area. It really does not help our standing with Coast Guard or the public if we are not available when needed for reasons that might be classed as trivial.

Please remember that our primary purpose is to provide a marine search and rescue service. Subject to vessel condition and crew requirements, stations should make every effort to remain online continuously, especially during periods of high probability of tasking. If the primary vessel must be taken out of service, it should be for as brief a period as possible. Secondary vessels and owner-operators can be used to maintain continuity of service as long as JRCC is advised.

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1400 volunteers in 49 units throughout the Pacific region