



U.S. Department of
Transportation

CONSUMER ADVISORY

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
March 13, 1986

USCG 02-86
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NEW FUEL HOSE DESIGNED TO MEET HAZARD OF ALCOHOL-GASOLINE BLENDS ON BOATS

The Coast Guard today cautioned recreational boat owners with inboard gasoline engines to watch closely for damaged or leaking fuel hoses, which could cause a fire or explosion.

The danger comes from alcohol-gasoline blends which have replaced leaded fuel. Alcohol, which increases octane ratings, also causes deterioration of rubber fuel hoses and eventually the fuel leaks through. On boats with enclosed engine compartments, such leaks create a fire and explosion hazard.

To help boaters solve this problem, a new alcohol-resistant fuel hose has been developed and the Coast Guard is permitting its use immediately, pending regulatory changes to the Coast Guard's Fuel System Standard.

Alcohol-gasoline blends have become common since the Environmental Protection Agency ordered the lead in regular gasoline reduced to less than one-half of one percent by January 1, 1986.

Anticipating the effect of the alcohol-gasoline blends, the Coast Guard and its National Boating Safety Advisory Council last year requested industry to develop a new standard. Prompt action by the Society of Automotive Engineers' Marine Technical Committee resulted in Standard SAE J1527DEC85. The new standard sets a permeation rate -- the rate at which fuel passes through the walls of the hose -- which is one-sixth of that specified under the present standard. The lower rate is achieved by reducing the plasticizers (wax) in the hose.

Because of the deterioration hazard, the Coast Guard urges all owners of inboard, inboard-outdrive and jet drive gasoline-powered boats to inspect their fuel hoses frequently, especially near the engine where heat can accelerate deterioration. Damaged hoses may be dry and cracked, or soft and mushy.

A hose that has failed should be replaced immediately, preferably with one meeting the new standard. If that is not available, owners should use any hose marked "USCG Type A."

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**United States
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CG 14-86
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COAST GUARD PUBLISHES VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

The U.S. Coast Guard's fishing vessel safety task force has announced publication of a book Voluntary Standards for U.S. Uninspected Commercial Fishing Vessels (NVIC 5-86) that will help commercial fishermen reduce accidents and injuries at sea.

Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole approved the safety program aimed at promoting voluntary vessel and crew safety in the U.S. fishing industry in the summer of 1985. The task force has been working with commercial fishing boat owners in developing a safety program that pursues voluntary vessel safety standards and voluntary crew safety awareness and education.

The book of voluntary guidelines and recommended operating standards is one part of a three-part program developed by the Coast Guard in conjunction with the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and other elements of the fishing industry. The book is comprised of guidelines originally issued by the Coast Guard as a series of separate circulars. The circulars covered topics such as fishing boat electrical systems, radio and shipboard navigation equipment, vessel stability, crew protection and lifesaving equipment, firefighting and firefighting equipment, and hull, machinery and electrical installations.

The second part of the program, a Vessel Safety Manual stressing safety awareness, is less technical in nature but contains material similar to the voluntary guidelines book. It is intended for use aboard fishing vessels. The material from this manual will serve as the basis for the third part of the program, industry-sponsored safety training courses. These courses will be developed and offered by fishing industry organizations, universities and community colleges.

The book of voluntary guidelines may be obtained by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, citing stock number 850-0001-000-22-7. Checks should be made payable to the Superintendent in the amount of \$11. Additional information may be obtained by calling (202) 783-3238.

The Vessel Safety Manual may be purchased by sending a check for \$30 to the Vessel Safety Program, Room 207, C-3 Building, Fishermen's Terminal, Seattle, WA 98119. For further information on this publication, telephone (206) 283-0861.

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