



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Washington, DC 20593

SAFETY and ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT

The Coast Guard has an honored and distinguished history of being ready to serve and protect the American people. As the premier multi-mission maritime service responsible for the safety and security of the Nation's waters, we have a proud legacy of accomplishing the mission and taking care of our most valuable asset - our people. The dynamic nature of our operations is inherently hazardous, and can test personal limits and operational capabilities. Our duty to people requires constant vigilance toward the safety and environmental health of our personnel and the public we serve. Our responsiveness and commitment to excellence demands continuous identification and mitigation of hazards through deliberate risk assessment and sound on-scene judgment.

I expect all leaders to exercise sound risk management principles to balance the level of risk warranted for successful mission execution against the potential consequences of failure. We must leverage mistakes as teachable moments. This is only possible in an atmosphere of trust where our personnel are encouraged to report hazards without fear of reprisal. Without open reporting, we miss opportunities to correct deficiencies that when left unchecked, may result in catastrophic failures or loss of life. We grow our safety culture and build mutual trust when peers, mentors, and leaders openly discuss errors and coach at-risk behavior. A culture of safety must be instilled into all facets of our organization so it becomes second nature both on and off duty.

Establishing a culture of safety requires our leaders to visibly support our Coast Guard's Safety Management System. Every Commanding Officer, Officer-in-Charge, and supervisor will ensure risk management principles are incorporated into the planning and execution of every activity and mission. Safety is a team effort, and every individual is responsible and accountable for identifying and reporting hazards, and managing risk both on and off duty. These responsibilities cannot be delegated and must not be compromised.

To uphold our ethos of protecting others, we must start by protecting ourselves. A safe and healthy work environment ensures we will remain *Ready, Relevant and Responsive* in our service to this great Nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karl L. Schultz". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

KARL L. SCHULTZ
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard