



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

SAFETY and ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT

The Coast Guard has a proud and distinguished history of being Always Ready. As a first responder to many of the Nation's most-pressing needs at home and abroad, our people must answer calls to action that demand vigilance and strong dedication to the mission. However, the dynamic nature of our operations are inherently hazardous and can test the operational and personal limits of even the most seasoned operator. Service readiness requires continuous awareness, assessment, and mitigation of hazards through deliberate and systematic risk management and sound on-scene judgment.

The Coast Guard has a robust safety and environmental health assessment program to proactively identify hazards before mishaps occur. We must be proactive in identifying and addressing these hazards to protect our personnel and operations from unnecessary and preventable risks.

I charge every commanding officer, officer-in-charge, supervisor, team lead, and team member with ensuring sound risk management principles are embedded into the planning and execution of every activity, and adequately addressing identified hazards in a timely fashion. We cannot remove all risk from our operations and missions, but we must strive to accept only the warranted risk necessary for mission execution. Accepting unnecessary risk is neither prudent nor justified.

Effective safety culture relies on an atmosphere of trust where our personnel are encouraged to report hazards without the fear of reprisal. Similarly, we must capitalize on errors and mistakes as teachable moments to identify opportunities for improvement. This is critical to the success of our Service. As leaders, we must foster open communication of information and lessons learned.

Our commitment to excellence in safety and environmental health is integral to our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda L. Fagan".

LINDA L. FAGAN
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard