

## FIRE SOURCES:

According to BoatUS Marine Insurance, the top five causes for boat fires are:

**Off-Boat Sources:** Fires that start from marinas, other boats, storage facility, a house, or a garage. Every boat owner has a responsibility to prevent boat fires by keeping property around boats safe.

**Engine Electrical:** Wiring harnesses & starters on boats can be a source for boats over 25 years old. Consider replacing old, original wires to maintain good condition.

**Other DC Electrical:** The most common cause of fires are battery-related, from operator, error from improper connection. Check for proper battery cable connections while looking for loose connections, chafed cables, & old battery switches. On older outboards, voltage regulators is the most common cause of fire. Replace the regulators to reduce failure rate on older outboards.

**AC Electrical:** Appliances such as air conditioning, microwaves, space heaters, etc. increases fire risk onboard. Use marine-grade power cords with proper adapters & regular inspection to minimize fire risks from marina pedestals & shore-power inlet, on the boat.

**Other Engine:** Overheating from blocked water intake, exhaust fire from impeller failures due to age or sediment can lead to engine fires onboard. Replace impellers often and after any grounding.

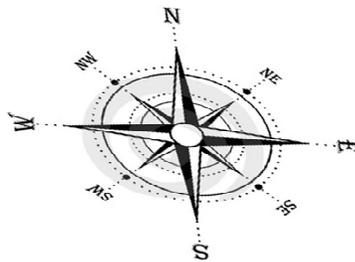
## BOAT FIRE SAFETY TIPS

With the recent increase of boat fires onboard vessels and at marinas, Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach encourages our local boating community to be aware of and remain vigilant against fires, through active prevention and mitigation.

Over the last three months, we have observed a small increase in recreational vessel fires at local marinas. Since January 22nd, we have been notified of four separate fire incidents, which damaged a total of 13 vessels and three individuals were injured as a result.

Preliminary investigations into each case has shown a trend of poor maintenance practices and unattended electronics as cause for the incidents.

Fire safety precautions are especially important in live-aboard, marina communities, and for occupants with limited escape routes during an emergency.



## HOW TO BE PREPARED:

### On the Boat:

- Install smoke & carbon monoxide alarms to alert occupants to a fire.
- Have a fire emergency plan & practice it.
- Inspect electrical wiring, connections, cords, & battery-charging equipment for proper installation & good condition.
- Have appropriate fire extinguishers & make sure they are easily accessible.
- Check cooling & exhaust systems; make sure they work properly.
- Turn off portable heaters when you leave the boat or go to sleep.
- Do not place propane tanks near space heaters.
- Use only certified chargers for electronic devices & don't overload power outlets.
- Adhere to ABYC compliance for electrical installations.

### At the Marina:

- Ask about the types of fire & emergency features at the marina; including smoke alarms & fire suppression equipment.
- Know where the fire extinguishers are located & how to escape.
- Smoke only in designated areas away from any fuel-filling or storage areas.
- Inspect shore power connections for any obvious signs of damage or improper installations.
- Know how to contact help.

Source: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

The overarching goal of this flyer, from Sector LA-LB, is to educate the boating community because:

1. The Coast Guard's number one priority is safety of life at sea.
2. It is the Coast Guard's responsibility to uphold federal law to ensure safety of life at sea and to protect the marine environment. Part of enforcing those laws and protections is by sharing information with the boating community for awareness and relationship building.
3. The Coast Guard must uniformly apply and enforce regulations to ensure fairness to all.



If you believe you have encountered a fire hazard, you can assist by contacting your local fire department and providing the following:

- A detailed description of the situation
- Photographs of the of the situation
- Your contact information and location



## SAFETY TIPS



### Boat Fire Safety Tips

To request a Vessel Safety Check (VSC), please visit the CG Auxiliary National Website at: [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

If in doubt, or if you have any other questions, contact the United States Coast Guard with your concerns:

USCG Sector LA-LB  
Incident Management Division  
(310) 521-3780

