

Memorandum

Date: July 24, 2007
To: Nicole Koon
From: Darin Fotheringham
Subject: Beached Vessel Removal Protocol
CC:



Removal process County Jurisdiction:

The Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies are familiar with the boat removal process and will facilitate the removal of all beached vessels in unincorporated areas of the County. They have been designated the Vessel Abatement Deputies for the Sheriff's Department. Vessels beached in a County Park will be the responsibility of the County Park Ranger; however, the Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will be available to assist or coordinate the use of the AWAFF Grant if needed.

A quick removal of beached vessels will minimize the threat to public safety, the environment, and property damage.

Upon initial notification:

- 1) Determine the location of the watercraft and confirm that it is beached.
- 2) After locating the watercraft, immediately confirm that there is not a "boater in distress" or any immediate danger to human life.
- 3) Look inside of the boat to see if there is any type of immediate hazard to the environment (ie. outboard engine, gas tanks, oil tank, waste water storage tanks, or any other potentially hazardous liquid, in the boat that could leak or spill). If there is, have dispatch contact the coast guard who will respond and remove all dangerous liquids. They will only remove the liquid hazards not the boat itself from the beach.
- 4) Post a "No Trespassing" sign on the watercraft or use yellow Sheriff's tape to cordon off the vessel to warn the public of the hazard.
- 5) Take pictures of the watercraft if feasible.
- 6) Locate the "CF" number on the hull of the boat. Run the CF number and locate the registered owner. Make every effort to contact the registered owner of the boat in person or via telephone.
 - If contact is made:
 - Notify the registered owner that the vessel is beached. Commonly they will already be aware of the fact and working on it's removal. Advise them that the boat is a hazard and needs to be removed immediately.

- If this was a live aboard and the owner is now homeless, provide the owner with the list of services available provided by County Social Services.
- If the registered owner is uncooperative, advise them that if they do not remove the watercraft themselves, the county will facilitate the removal and the registered owner will be responsible to reimburse the County for the full amount.
 - If contact is made: The Deputy will obtain the registered owner's information and take a write an incident report for documentation purposes.
 - If contact is not made: The Deputy will write an incident report documenting the beached vessel for later follow up by the Carpinteria Community Resource Deputy.
 - If the deputy believes the registered owner of the boat has abandoned the vessel or is purposely evading contact by Law Enforcement an offense report for 525(a) H&N, to document the circumstances and for later prosecution of the owner.

Follow up and removal

7) The Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will be assigned the case and facilitate the ultimate removal of the vessel from the beach or waterway.

- If the vessel is determined to pose an immediate threat to public safety or the environment, the removal will be done as quickly as possible per 523(a)(1) H&N.
 - The owner is financial responsible and will be required to immediately remove the vessel.
 - If the owner is unable to remove the vessel immediately then the vessel will be removed at the direction of the Sheriff.
- If the vessel does not pose an immediate threat to public safety or the environment.
 - The vessel will be tagged with a notice informing the owner that the vessel must be removed within 30 days or it will be deemed abandoned. Every effort will be made to contact the boat owner in person to advise them of the requirement and offer assistance as requested.
 - If after 30 days the vessel is not removed by the owner, the Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will have the boat removed and request the District Attorney's Office file criminal charges against the boat owner.
- The Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will assess if the boat owner may be in need of other County services such as mental health, public health, or other social services
 - If any services may be helpful to the boat owner, they will be provided the Access referral packets provided by County of Santa Barbara Social Services.
- If the owner takes responsibility, the Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will monitor the case until the boat has been removed verifying all debris has been cleared from the beach and surrounding waterways.
 - The Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will be responsible for contacting County Code Compliance, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, and/or County Parks keeping them informed to the progress in the removal and coordinating any assistance needed.
- If the boat is in a County Park, the Park Ranger has lead authority and the Carpinteria Station Community Resource Deputies will be available to assist as requested and are the AWAf grant coordinators should the grant be needed for the removal.