

Port of Brownsville
Newsletter April 2018



Here is a list of construction projects we have coming up for February:

- A. We are starting to finally put decking down. That means we are getting close to being done.
- B. Pressure washing. Lots of it.
- C. We are going to work on the upper park this year.

1. This part might get old because I am going to repeat it until we get our 30 participants. June 3 is the official date. The port is doing its Bi-Annual **CPR and First Aid Training**. This is hosted by the Port and will be open to the first 30 people to sign up. So if anyone is interested in attending please come up to the office and get on the list.
2. If you have problems with your dock pedestal, or anything else you see, please report it. The more eyes looking, helps find things that may or may not have been missed. If no one takes the time to talk to the staff, we may not know there is a problem. If the Port is not aware of a problem, we cannot fix it.
3. I know by looking outside it's hard to believe that summer really is almost here. With that in mind I am going to write a bit about **LIFE JACKETS**.

So you can swim ----- for how long? How far? While trying to put a life jacket on? While helping your kids? In rough water? When you're injured? While you're unconscious? In other words "Always wear your life jacket" it doesn't hurt even while walking on the dock.

The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that life jackets could have saved the lives of over 80% of boating fatality victims. As a boat operator, you're in command of the safety of your passengers. But accidents can and do happen with terrifying speed on the water. There's rarely time to reach stowed life jackets. With that in mind the U.S. Coast Guard and the Port of Brownsville challenges you and your passengers to always wear your life jacket while on the water.

Life jackets save lives, they have saved the lives of boaters who have capsized in rough water; were sinking in unexpectedly heavy sea conditions; were thrown from the boat as a result of a collision; were injured by rocks or submerged objects; were unconscious from carbon monoxide fumes; were tossed into freezing water; were thrown off balance while fishing; were unable to swim because of heavy or waterlogged clothing.

Life jackets have even been known to help poor lowly port employees (who shall remain nameless) when they have fallen in the water trying to do their jobs. Which of course is the reason Labor and Industries insists that employees wear life jackets while working over or around the water.

Boaters enjoy the feel of sun and spray. So it's tempting to boat without wearing a life jacket -- especially on nice days. But modern life jackets are available in a wide variety of shapes,

colors, and sizes. Many are thin and flexible. Some are built right into fishing vests or coats. Others are inflatable and as compact as a scarf or fanny pack until they hit the water, when they automatically fill with air.

Things to Know

- a. Certain life jackets are designed to keep your head above water and help you remain in a position which permits proper breathing.
 - b. To meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements, a boat must have a Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket for each person aboard. Boats 16 feet and over must have at least one Type IV throwable device as well.
 - c. All states have regulations regarding life jackets worn by children. In Washington state children 12 years old and younger must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times when underway in a vessel less than 19 feet in length, unless in a fully enclosed area.
 - d. Adult-sized life jackets will not work for children. Special life jackets are available. To work correctly, a life jacket must be worn, fit snugly, and not allow the child's chin or ears to slip through.
 - e. Life jackets should be tested for wear and buoyancy at least once each year. Waterlogged, faded, or leaky jackets should be discarded.
 - f. Life jackets must be properly stowed.
 - Make sure they are clean. Rinsing with clean fresh water is the minimum.
 - Make sure they are totally dry before storing.
 - Keep them in a moisture-free, well ventilated environment, preferably in a hanging position. Avoid plastic bags!
 - When stowing on your boat or in a container of some sort, make sure they are not bent, folded, or have heavy or sharp objects on top that might damage them.
 - Be cautious about container storage, such as plastic totes or marine storage boxes. Mold and mildew can thrive in dark, enclosed spaces if everything is not completely dry. These can damage a PFD enough to make them unusable.
 - g. A life jacket, especially a snug fitting floatation coat or deck suit style, can help you survive in cold water.
4. Commissioners' Meeting: The regularly scheduled meeting **has been changed** and is **April 10** and will be held at **6:00 P.M. in the Firehall** **New Business:** Resolution 18-3 Rules and Regulations; **Old Business:** Boat Launch and Boat compliance list.