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M. Water Vessel Operator Safety Program

LSU Main Campus

The LSU main campus will follow the guidelines for a water vessel operator safety program as outlined in the Loss Prevention Manual of the State Office of Risk Management. The following administrative procedures should be followed in carrying out this program.

Types of Water Vessel Operators

There are two types of water vessel operators, occasional and routine. Routine operators are defined as:

Individuals whose job duties requires them to operate a water vessels on a frequent basis such as once per week.

Occasional operators are defined as:

Individuals whose normal job duties does not require them to operate vessels on a frequent basis but may operate vessels on an infrequent basis.

Water Vessel Operator Record Checks

Water vessel operator record checks are required to be made on faculty, staff, and students who operate water vessels on an occasional or routine basis while on state / university business. In order for this to be accomplished, department heads must submit a Vessel Authorization / Operator History Form on a yearly basis to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to obtain water vessel operator history records for evaluation. This is accomplished through the Manager of the Boat Shop, who maintains records of boat maintenance, boat inspections, and authorized boaters list.

In addition, Driver Authorization forms are required to be completed for boater authorization.

On current and new faculty, staff, and students, the supervisor must determine the water vessel

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A High Risk water vessel operator, who, under the State Office of Risk Management guidelines should be prohibited from operating a water vessel on State business, is defined as:

An individual who has three or more convictions, guilty pleas and/or nolo contendere pleas for vessel violations or an individual who has a single conviction, guilty plea or nolo contendere plea for operating a vessel while intoxicated, hit and run operation, vessel negligent injury, reckless operation of a vessel or similar violation, within a one-year period.

Also, if an individual is determined to be a high risk Driver (according to Safe Driving program) the individual privileges to operate a watercraft is suspended or revoked as well

Upon reviewing the operator history and discovering that a water vessel operator is a high risk operator, the Manager of Boat Shop will send the information to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety for a determination on vessel operating status.

Safe Water Vessel Operation Training

Safe Water Vessel Operation Training must be provided to employees who will operate water vessels on a routine basis. Departments which have such operators include most departments residing under the Center for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources (CCEER). The training is free of charge and is provided through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Department heads are responsible for obtaining this training for water vessel operators, and for