

U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service New England Region



Up To \$1,000 Reward

CGIS New England Region is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 to be paid for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of a person involved with a Search and Rescue (SAR) Hoax call. If you have information relating to a SAR Hoax, please call CGIS New England Region. All calls will be kept confidential.

(617) 557-9091 – Boston, MA (Region Office)
(860) 444-8210 – New London, CT
(207) 780-3087 – Portland, ME
(207) 244-4611 – Southwest Harbor, ME
(518) 562-6911 – Champlain, NY

**Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service**

Coast Guard Investigative Service New England Region



Up To \$1,000 Reward:

When you provide information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of a person involved with a SAR Hoax call.

SAR Hoax Calls Cost Taxpayers Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Every Year

Several thousand dollars are expended every time the USCG responds to a SAR Hoax call. The average search costs the U.S. Government approximately:

\$14,237 per hour to operate a CG aircraft
\$8,083 per hour to operate a CG helicopter
\$6,290 per hour to operate a CG large ship
\$937 per hour to operate a CG small boat

If a Hoax caller is not apprehended, the taxpayers pay the cost of the search.

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USCG Search and Rescue Mission

Each day, the USCG responds to nearly 100 boaters in distress, saving 10 lives and assisting 190 people, but not every distress call is real. Under federal law, knowingly and willfully making a false distress call is a felony. The maximum penalty for making a Hoax distress call is five (5) to 10 years in prison, \$250,000 criminal fine, \$5,000 civil fine, and reimbursement to the USCG for the costs incurred responding to the false call.

False Distress Calls Hurt Everyone

-USCG personnel by placing them in danger by operating helicopters, aircrafts, ships and small boats.

-The taxpayers by wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

-Those really in distress at sea by interfering with legitimate search and rescue operations.

Is there a way you can help the USCG to combat and reduce SAR Hoax calls? Yes!!!!

If you have information relating to a SAR Hoax, please call the nearest CGIS office.





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