

FREE PADDLE SPORT SAFETY SEMINAR & OPEN HOUSE



Host: Coast Guard Sector Northern New England

When: Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Coast Guard Base, 259 High Street, South Portland, Maine 04106

View: Exhibits of kayaks and canoes, safety gear, weather protective clothing, in-the-water demonstrations of self and assisted rescue techniques, flare demonstration, and a search and rescue demonstration by a Coast Guard helicopter. We will offer an opportunity to expend or turn in expired flares from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn: Trip planning strategies from Coast Guard recreational boating safety specialists, the U.S. Power Squadron, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Maine Marine Patrol, professional kayak instructors, professional guides and other experts. Bring a kayak to receive a FREE voluntary paddle craft inspection from the Auxiliary outside the base.

Tour: Coast Guard cutters, rescue and work boats, and a Maine Marine Patrol vessel.

Kayaking along the Maine Coast can open the door to a whole world of adventure and new experiences. However, given Maine's frequent weather changes and cold ocean temperatures, would you be prepared for an unexpected emergency? Could you get back into a kayak if you fell out? What safety gear and other supplies should you take with you? How do you file a float plan?

Sponsors: U.S Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, U. S. Power Squadron, Maine Marine Patrol, Cape Elizabeth Water Extraction Team, Maine State Police Dive Team, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Maine Association of Sea Kayaking Guides and Instructors, Maine Island Trail Association, Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network, Maine Island Kayak Company, Castine Kayak, Seaspray Kayaking, Midcoast Kayak, and Maine Guide Supply. Area retailers committed to date are L. L. Bean and Eastern Mountain Sports with others planning to come onboard and support the effort.

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