FLOATING ELECTRIC WATERLIGHT SAFETY

Don’t get lost in the dark!

Recently the following problems have been reported regarding Floating Electric Waterlights:

- Installation of incorrect replacement batteries which cause the waterlights to sink (batteries too heavy).
- Improperly installed batteries and missing flotation foam.
- Installation into a bracket not designed for that waterlight (will not properly release).
- Lanyard deterioration due to sun damage.
- Not using a Coast Guard Approved Floating Electric Waterlight when required.

46 CFR 161.010-2 requires that floating electric waterlights meet the requirements of UL 1196, which includes float testing, bracket release testing and labeling. Though laboratory re-testing is not typically required after a model has been approved, waterlights must be properly maintained to retain the required characteristics. Clearly a waterlight that sinks is not able to fulfill its purpose. Waterlight owners should pay close attention to manufacturers' instructions, particularly regarding battery replacement.

General Information:

- Floating Electric Waterlight approval information is contained in 46 CFR 161.010
- Testing is carried out by a Coast Guard Accepted Independent Laboratory upon initial certification of a model of waterlight. (approved laboratory list)
- A list of approved waterlights may be found by selecting "FLOATING ELECTRIC WATER LIGHT" in the Approval Series field of the Search page at the USCG Maritime Information Exchange.
- Waterlights that have met the additional SOLAS requirements are listed under "FLOATING ELECTRIC WATER LIGHT (SOLAS)" at the USCG Maritime Information Exchange.

Please address any questions or reports of Floating Electric Waterlight problems to your local Marine Safety Office, or LT Patrick Nelson at: (202)267-0027, psnelson@comdt.uscg.mil

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