



Press Release

Date: July 4, 2008
Contact: Public Affairs
617-223-8515

Coast Guard Station Chatham receives new surf boat

BOSTON - Media are invited to Coast Guard Station Chatham, Mass., Monday at 9:30 a.m., to take photos and video of the Coast Guard's newest search and rescue asset.

The new 42-foot boat, manufactured by Safe Boat International, is designed to be highly maneuverable in breaking surf conditions and will eventually replace Station Chatham's other two surfboats.

Station Chatham requires surf-capable boats with shallow drafts due to the area's shallow and shifting sand bars.

"The new boat will have much greater sea capability than the 32-foot Halmatic," said Senior Chief Petty Officer David Jonason, the officer in charge at Station Chatham.

The Halmatic is about six years old and is only capable of going out in 10-foot surf and 40-knot winds. The new boat can maneuver through 15-foot surf and 50-knot winds.

Station Chatham also has the Coast Guard's last 44-foot motor lifeboat in service. It can handle 20-foot surf, but is more than 46 years old and will soon be replaced by another Safe boat.

Chief Petty Officer David Pierias, the executive petty officer at Station Chatham, said the Safe boat's greater capabilities are important for crew training. They are required to have two surfboats out during training, one acting as a training platform and the other as a safety standby. Although the 44-footer is rated for 20-foot surf, if it exceeds 10-feet, they are unable to train because of the Halmatic's limitations.

Surf conditions are a regular occurrence in Chatham from September to April.

Media interested in covering the story should arrive at Station Chatham, 37 Main Street in Chatham, Monday by 9:30 a.m.

U.S. Coast Guard: Saving Lives Since 1790

Send email replies to d1publicaffairs@uscg.mil

Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard First District

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



Photo Release

Date: July 8, 2008

Contact: Petty Officer
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Coast Guard Station Chatham receives new surf boat



CHATHAM, Mass. - Coast Guard Station Chatham received a new search and rescue boat Wednesday, July 2, 2008. The 42-foot boat, manufactured by Safe Boat International, is designed to be highly maneuverable in breaking surf and will eventually replace Station Chatham's other two surf boats. The new boat can maneuver through 15-foot surf and 50-knot winds. (Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Lauren Jorgensen)

Coast Guard rescue boat brings high tech to high seas



The Coast Guard's state-of-the-art rescue boat will be tethered near the Chatham Fish Pier until crew members complete their training. Steering aboard the vessel is fully computerized and electronic.
Cape Cod Times/Merrily Lunsford

By [Robin Lord \(rlord@capecodonline.com\)](mailto:rlord@capecodonline.com)

July 10, 2008 6:00 AM

CHATHAM — With the arrival of a new search-and-rescue boat last week, Coast Guard Station Chatham has the distinction of having the newest boat of its kind in the Coast Guard fleet — as well as the oldest.

The station's 46-year-old, 44-foot motor lifeboat is the last one in operation, and it will be retired with a celebration sometime next summer. But it's the new 42-foot gray and orange search-and-rescue boat that has everyone at the station so excited.

"It's the latest and greatest," Chief Petty Officer Dave Pierias said yesterday as he sat in the black cushioned navigator's seat of the new boat at the Chatham Fish Pier.

The boat, which was built by Safe Boat International in Port Orchard, Wash., is so new, the crew in Chatham will be helping to write its user manual.

It replaced a 6-year-old 32-foot Halmatic search craft.

High fuel prices may be playing a part in a quieter than usual rescue season so far for Coast Guard stations on Cape Cod, said Senior Chief Petty Officer Dave Jonason, who is in charge at the Chatham station. He is grateful for the breathing room while he and the station's 26 crew members get acquainted with the new boat.

"That's a challenge for me; making sure we slow down (and learn how to operate it)" Jonason said. "Everybody's really excited to have a new boat."

It will sit idle for a week or so while training takes place. The 1964 motor boat will be used as backup during that time, and will eventually be replaced by another 42-foot search-and-rescue vessel.

At the end of the training, Jonason hopes to have five or six certified surfmen for the new boat. Surfmen have the highest level of training for rescue operations in high surf areas like Chatham.

The Coast Guard uses the search-and-rescue boats for rescuing mariners in distress, law enforcement and training.

A speedy, easily maneuverable search-and-rescue boat is vital for Chatham Harbor, which is home to a fishing fleet of about 60 year-round vessels, and to hundreds of recreational watercraft.

The new search-and-rescue craft is designed to carry 14 to 20 people and has a watertight hold under the bow for survivors of an ocean accident.

The aluminum cabin is also watertight and the boat is self-righting, Jonason said.

Numerous shifting shoals snake through Chatham Harbor and into the open ocean, which requires the Coast Guard to have a search-and-rescue boat with an extremely low draft. The new boat has a draft of just 2 feet 8 inches, Jonason said.

The boat is also fully computerized and electronic — no steering wheel here, just joy stick-type mechanisms on each of the four seats.

There are other differences between the new vessel and the one it replaced.

For starters, the 42-foot boat can drive in surf as high as 15 feet, while its predecessor was limited to 10-foot surf. And it can power through 50-knot winds, about 10 knots more than the capability of the Halmatic.

The new search-and-rescue boat is designed as a "near-shore" vessel, but it can venture up to 50 nautical miles from the harbor, Jonason said.

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The Cape Cod Chronicle

July 10, 2008

Coast Guard Receives New Surf Rescue Boat

by Alan Pollock

CHATHAM — It's a unique tool for a unique place. Crews from Coast Guard Station Chatham this week showed off the station's new surf rescue boat, a one-of-a-kind craft designed to take the punishment of the Chatham Bar. If all goes well, it will eventually replace the familiar 44-foot motor lifeboat, the station's workhorse for decades.

The 42001 is the Coast Guard's first 42-foot motor lifeboat, and was made especially for Station Chatham by Safe Boats International, LLC, of Port Orchard, Wash. The aluminum-hulled boat is outfitted with a foam-filled rigid collar, giving it the look of a rigid-hull inflatable boat, but with greater durability and less maintenance.

The boat draws only 2'8", and should be able to navigate the bar during most conditions. According to preliminary guidelines, the 42001 is rated to operate in 15-foot surf, though that number may prove too high or too low during actual trials in the upcoming weeks and months.

"The manuals are still being written" for the \$1.2 million boat, said Senior Chief David Jonason, the station's commanding officer.

Like the 44-footer, the new surf boat is self-righting. While it can take up to 15 agonizing seconds for its predecessor to right itself, the new boat flipped upright in less than eight seconds during a test at the factory.

The new boat steamed into Aunt Lydia's Cove last Wednesday, having been launched in Woods Hole after its transcontinental trip by trailer. The 32-foot Halmatic surfboat, built especially for Station Chatham six years ago, was reassigned. If the new boat proves itself, the Coast Guard will order another one and finally retire the 44-footer, the last remaining one of its kind.

The new boat is much more capable than the Halmatic, which was only rated to operate in 10-foot seas. Because two surfboats are required to conduct heavy weather training, one for students and the other as a safety standby, the station's crews were unable to practice boat operations when seas exceeded 10 feet. Now, crews will be able to train in seas up to 15 feet.

The design of the 42001 is unique, with two low spots on the rails for retrieving people in the water, and with a large afterdeck. In addition to a standard crew of four people, the surfboat can accommodate up to 14 passengers. It is equipped with twin 567-horsepower Caterpillar diesel jet drive engines, which are entirely controlled by computer. Notably absent from the wheelhouse is a wheel; the coxswain uses two joysticks to steer the boat and control the throttle. Because of the nature of its engines, the boat can turn sharply and even move sideways. Its top speed is above 34 knots, at least four knots faster than the Halmatic, and much faster than the lumbering 44-footer.

Inside its climate-controlled cabin is an amazing array of electronics, including the latest radios and navigational equipment. The 42001 is equipped with radios compatible with the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 initiative, which will eventually help provide better clarity and directional tracking of distress calls, and increase radio interoperability with other public safety agencies.

The 15-foot surf rating of the 42001 is less than the 20-foot rating of the old 44-footer, but meets the Coast Guard's current standards for training. Jonason said the boat will be capable of meeting most of the station's historic search and rescue needs.

The Coast Guard authorized Station Chatham to retain the 44-footer until January, and it appears the station's supply of spare parts will be adequate to keep the boat in service through that time, Jonason said. In the next two weeks, all of the station's coxswains will be checked out to operate the new boat, allowing them to officially place the boat in service. It may take until late summer or autumn, depending on the weather, for the crew to be cleared for heavy weather and surf operations, he said. In the meantime, the boat can be pressed into service in an emergency.

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