



**THE NATIONAL COMMODORE
OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

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From: National Commodore

To: Members of USCG Auxiliary

Subj: Hurricane Gustav

As we watch the progress of hurricane Gustav across the gulf, we are reminded of the devastation from hurricane Katrina only a few years ago. There were many lessons learned from hurricane Katrina by the Auxiliary. One of the first was that as auxiliarists our primary role is not as a first responder but rather to be ready to assist our local Coast Guard units should they need us to fill in when active duty personnel and assets are deployed to the disaster area.

Our training and abilities as Coast Guard Auxiliarists are excellent and our role is always to take direction from the Coast Guard. We are there to do what they need when they need it. If they have specific needs that we can fill, they will direct that request to your District Commodore.

While our thought and prayers remain with the people that will be affected by this storm we also need to review our own readiness during times of disaster. I urge all auxiliarists to take this opportunity to review your local disaster plans within your flotillas, divisions and districts. Your District Commodore and Auxiliary Sector Coordinator will be in close contact with the Sectors in your area to ensure that if the Coast Guard has a need for auxiliary personnel and resources that appropriate actions will be taken.

I thank each of you for your service and dedication; the work that you do as auxiliarists makes a world of difference to the Coast Guard and America's boaters. Please keep prepared, aware and safe.

Semper Paratus

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.M. Budar".

Steven M. Budar
National Commodore