

TOWN OF SMITHTOWN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

65 MAPLE AVENUE, SMITHTOWN, NY 11787
(631) 360-7553



The Department of Public Safety consists of five operating Divisions: Fire Prevention, Park Ranger, Ordinance Investigations, Waterways & Navigation and Emergency Management. The Department is responsible for the uniformed enforcement and security activities within the Town. This is accomplished by the various Divisions patrolling in a community oriented fashion in an area of fifty-four square miles and serving a population of over 150,000. Smithtown has miles of shoreline and hosts thousands of parkland acres. Outdoor activities take place in our 5 beaches, 2 state parks, 3 county parks, a municipally owned pool and golf course, 2 marinas, 3 boat launching ramps, and over 25 town parks. Insuring a continuity of government, Department operations are conducted around the clock. The Department of Public Safety maintains high standards of professionalism and utilizes modern training methods, vehicles, vessels and equipment.



RESPONSE

GUIDE TO

MARINE INCIDENTS

WITHIN TOWN OF SMITHTOWN WATERWAYS

This brochure contains basic information regarding emergency services and response provided by the Town through the Department of Public Safety Waterways & Navigation Division. The intent is to provide local Fire Chiefs and the public with a basic knowledge of established procedures and resources of this Department.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WATERWAYS & NAVIGATION DIVISION

65 MAPLE AVENUE, SMITHTOWN, NY 11787
(631)360-7553

CHIEF JOHN VALENTINE
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

PATRICK GILLIGAN
SENIOR BAY CONSTABLE

OVERVIEW

Waterways & Navigation Division

The Waterways and Navigation Division consists of the Harbormaster and Bay Constables. Personnel in this division actively enforce all federal, state and local laws dealing with navigation, wildlife and fish conservation. Like the Park Rangers and Fire Marshals, the Harbormaster and Bay Constables are peace



officers under New York State Law and are trained at the Suffolk County Police or Sheriff's Academy. The Harbormaster manages both the Town marina and mooring areas and assigns slips and moorings to the Town's boating community. This division is responsible for the planning and installation of channel markers that help ensure the safe and orderly flow of boating traffic in the local harbors and inlets.

The Bay Constables and Harbormaster regularly patrol Smithtown waters to maintain a safe boating environment and they regularly assist boaters. They conduct safe boating seminars to the public and also hold boating classes in the local schools to the younger town residents.

The duties of the Bay Constables and Harbormaster are defined by Legislative Statutes, Judicial Interpretations, the Rules and Procedures and the orders of the Civil Service Law.

RESPONSE COORDINATION AND HOW TO CONTACT US ...

When an incident occurs requiring fire/ambulance response to Smithtown waterways and shorelines, the responding fire and ambulance officers coordinate with the Department of Public Safety Waterways & Navigation Division via our dispatcher in one of the following manners:

By Radio:

- Smithtown Public Safety Frequencies
- Suffolk Fire Service Frequencies
- Town Fire Department Frequencies
- Marine radios

By Emergency Phone:

Emergency "call-boxes" are located at the Roger Balducci Marine Facility and the Kings Park Bluff Facility which provide contact with a Public Safety Dispatcher. Just lift the handset to activate the dialer.

By Land-Line:

631-360-7553 is a "roll-over" line. In the event of an emergency, a caller will not receive a busy signal. Dispatchers are on duty around the clock.

MARINE TRANSPORT ...

The Bay Constables will make the determination if marine transport is possible and safe.

Where true emergencies do NOT exist, transport by a patrol vessel may have to wait for appropriate tide and/or weather conditions.

For transport to waterway emergencies, the local fire service has personnel respond for staging, pick-up and transport as follows:

- Incidents WEST of and including the Nissequogue River, personnel should respond and muster at the Kings Park Bluff Facility.
- Incidents EAST of the river, personnel should respond and muster at the Roger Balducci Marine Facility.

WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURS ...

The Department of Public Safety stands ready with all its resources to assist fire/rescue services personnel affect any emergency response required to the waterways and shorelines within the Town.

As per existing protocol, a Fire Marshal will respond to the appropriate staging area for all search, rescue and other incidents to serve as a liaison to the officer-in-charge. Fire marshals will coordinate resources provided during an operation, as well.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) OPERATIONS

During a SAR patrol boats will not be operated by a single bay constable. Personnel such as park rangers, fire marshals, fire department members and county and village police officers may be utilized to assist the bay constables in vessel operations.

Equipment assigned to other divisions and outside agencies may be utilized, as well, to affect search and rescue operations through the coordination of all agencies.

Park rangers, fire marshals, county/village police personnel may be utilized for ground transportation if a bay constable is required at a scene that cannot be reached by a patrol vessel.

OUTSIDE AGENCY TRAINING

Training for outside agencies and fire departments is available through the Department of Public Safety Waterways and Navigation Division. Training curriculums consist of the following topics.

- Patrol vessel familiarization
- Basic navigation (radar and GPS use)
- Radio Procedures
- Setup and use of on-board fire pump
- Area familiarization
- Use of rescue equipment
- Boating Safety & Operations

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of Waterways & Navigation Division personnel include, but is not limited to the following:

- Patrolling town waters to enforce federal, state, and local ordinances regulating hunting, fishing, clamming and boating.
- Enforcing Navigation Laws regulating the proper use and speed of craft in local waters.
- Installing and maintaining channel buoys and lights relating to waterways navigation.
- Investigating reports of boating accidents, drowning and hazards to navigation.
- Inspecting seed beds and polluted areas for illegal fishing and clamming; checking fishing and clamming permits; prohibiting the removal of shellfish from seed beds.

VESSEL EQUIPMENT

Public Safety vessels are outfitted with equipment including, but not limited to the following:

- Flares
- Fire Extinguishers
- Sound Producing Device
- Personal Floatation Devices
- Throw Ring with Line
- De-watering Equipment
- First Aid Kit
- Resuscitator
- Defibrillator
- Fire pump
- Work Lines
- Fenders
- Boat Hook
- Radios
- Telephones
- Lights
- Sirens
- Radar
- GPS/Depth Sounder
- Personal Radiation Devices