



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander
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Prevention Division
1240 E. 9th Street
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Commercial Vessel Marine Casualty Unintended Grounding Reporting Requirements

Recently, the Ninth Coast Guard District has noted a trend of late reporting for marine casualty unintended vessel groundings. As a result of this trend, we are issuing this Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) to prevent potential violations of marine casualty reporting requirements outlined in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 4.05-1 “Notice of marine casualty”, and/or hazardous condition reporting requirements outlined in Title 33 CFR § 160.216 “Notice of hazardous conditions”.

An unintended vessel grounding may be defined as any situation (even if momentary) where the vessel is unintentionally brought or placed on the ground, historically identified as being “ground” beneath the water line (e.g., sea floor, riverbed, silt, mud, or rocks, etc.). **Upon discovery of a grounding, immediate notification must be made to the Coast Guard under the requirements of 46 CFR § 4.05-1(a)(1) after the addressing of resultant safety concerns.**

Failure to provide immediate notice of either a marine casualty (including vessel groundings) to the cognizant Captain of the Port and Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection may result in civil or administrative enforcement actions. For licensed mariners, it may additionally result in suspension and revocation proceedings. The Ninth Coast Guard District encourages all commercial vessel owners, operators, masters, and maritime industry personnel to provide immediate notice of vessel groundings, marine casualties, and hazardous condition to the Coast Guard, even if in doubt of whether the situation meets the definition of a marine casualty and/or a hazardous condition.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Kirk Beckmann at (216) 902-6050.

Sincerely,

M. D. DOORIS
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Prevention Division
By direction