

U. S. COAST GUARD SECTOR BUFFALO

Sector Commander: CAPT Lexia Littlejohn

Sector Deputy: CDR Rob Kistner

Command Senior Chief: CSCS Jami Wheeler

Sector Command Center: 716-843-9525 (24-Hours)

HISTORY

The U.S. Coast Guard has served the maritime interests of the Eastern Great Lakes for nearly 200 years, beginning with the construction of the Buffalo Lighthouse in 1818 and the establishment of Buffalo's first lifesaving station in 1877. The current Sector Buffalo was commissioned on July 22, 2005. The Sector was created through the merger of the former Group Buffalo, Marine Safety Office (MSO) Buffalo, and MSO Cleveland.

MISSIONS

Sector Buffalo is responsible for the safe and effective execution of all U.S. Coast Guard missions. These include all missions designated under the authority of the Captain of the Port (COTP), Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator (SMC), Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC), Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI), and Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC).

These include the following: Marine Safety, Aids to Navigation, Ice Operations, Search and Rescue, Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations, Drug Enforcement, Fisheries Enforcement, Ports Waterways and Coastal Security, Defense Operations, and Other Law Enforcement, and any other missions or actions the Department of Homeland Security may task.

AVERAGE YEARLY SECTOR CASE STATISTICS (FY2016 - 2018)

Search and Rescue

- 938 cases in AOR
- 141 lives saved
- 1,748 lives assisted
- \$1,248,718 of property saved
- \$29,900,819 of property assisted

Law Enforcement

- 3,387 Vessel Boarding's
- 9 Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) Arrests
- 448 Violations

Marine Environmental Response/Prevention

- 260 response notifications
- 492 vessel inspection activities
- 131 facility inspection activities
- 55 Investigation & Enforcement actions

PERSONNEL

Active Duty: PAL: 360

Reservists: PAL: 140

Civil Servants: PAL: 17

Auxiliary: 820 Members

SECTOR BUFFALO ORGANIZATION

Prevention Department (CDR Julie Blanchfield): The Prevention Department focuses largely on gaining compliance with regulatory standards and the design and maintenance of waterway systems to prevent incidents and enhance commerce. Prevention requires expertise in the technical understanding and practical conduct of compliance inspection of vessels (foreign and domestic), investigation of marine casualties, inspection of facilities, and enforcement of maritime related safety and security standards.

Response Department (CDR William McKinstry): The Response Department focuses on command and control activities associated with incident response and/or security enforcement. Response requires proficiency in high tempo command, control, and communications processes, and, the exercise of response and security enforcement expertise to accomplish incident command and crisis management.

Logistics Department (LCDR Gretal Kinney): The Logistics Department provides the capability for conducting Response and Prevention activities through the coordinated balance between asset maintenance and availability, personnel preparation and provisioning, and the financial aspects of planned and unscheduled operations.

KEY PARTNERS

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- DHS Agencies (CBP, BP, HSI, AMO, ERO, OFO)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)
- Lake Carriers Association
- Seneca & Akwesasne Reservation Leadership
- NY, PA, OH Environmental Protection & LE agencies
- Four Area Maritime Security Committees
- St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard

SECTOR BUFFALO AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR)

As represented in the picture below, Sector Buffalo has oversight of 15 Coast Guard Stations/Units that are responsible for approximately 570 miles of shoreline in the Eastern Great Lakes from Vermillion, Ohio, to Massena, NY. This area includes the NY Finger Lakes Region, Niagara Falls, and the Erie Barge Canal from Buffalo to Little Falls, NY. Within their respective AORs, these Stations/Units have the primary responsibility for conducting/supporting all Coast Guard missions. The Sector responds to approximately 1,000 Search and Rescue cases and performs more than 3,000 boardings annually. The Sector's Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) is responsible for the proper operation and correct positioning of over 230 navigational aids, including the placement/removal of 96 seasonal aids.

Sector Buffalo is comprised within the Ninth Coast Guard District, located in Cleveland, Ohio, which is responsible for all Coast Guard operations throughout the five Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway, including 6,700 miles of shoreline and 1,500 miles of the international border with Canada.



SECTOR BUFFALO STATIONS/UNITS

LAKE ERIE UNITS	LAKE ONTARIO UNITS
1) Station (Small) Lorain, Lorain, Ohio	9) Station Niagara, Youngstown, NY
2) Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Cleveland, Cleveland, OH	10) Station Rochester, Rochester, NY
3) Station Cleveland Harbor, Cleveland, OH	11) Station (Small) Sodus Point, Sodus Point, NY
4) Station Fairport, Grand River, OH	12) Station Oswego, Oswego, NY
5) Station (Small) Ashtabula, Ashtabula, OH	13) Station (Small) Sackets Harbor, Sackets Harbor, NY
6) Station Erie, Erie, Pennsylvania	14) Station Alexandria Bay, Wellesley Island, NY
7) Aids to Navigation Team (ANT), Buffalo, NY	15) Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Massena, Massena, NY
8) Station Buffalo, Buffalo, NY	

