



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE
POLICE PROVINCIALE DE L'ONTARIO

NEWS RELEASE/
COMMUNIQUÉ

FROM: Highway Safety Division

DATE: June 30, 2009

**OPP AND TRANSPORT CANADA ENCOURAGES ONTARIO BOATERS
TO DISPOSE OF EXPIRED MARINE FLARES**

(ORILLIA, ON) – The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Transport Canada recognizes the importance of a safe recreational boating environment. As a joint safety-initiative these two agencies have partnered to facilitate the ability of Ontario boaters to safely dispose of their unwanted expired recreational marine flares.

For one week only, from August 1 to 8, 2009, anyone with expired recreational marine flares who wish to dispose of them, can drop them off at **any** of the 165 **OPP detachments** across the province. At the end of the week, the OPP will turn the expired flares in to Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety for safe transport to a certified disposal site.

Marine flares should only be set off in an emergency situation, and should be replaced after their expiry date. Due to the environmental concerns and the dangers of explosion expired recreational marine flares should not be disposed of in the landfill.

Two easy steps are all that is required to protect your boating environment by taking this opportunity to safely dispose of your expired recreational marine flares:

Step One: Check the expiry date of all the recreational marine flares on your boat or in storage.

Step Two: Expired recreational marine flares that you wish to dispose can be dropped off at the nearest OPP detachment. OPP locations are listed on our website under:
<http://www.opp.ca/Organization/RegionsandDetachments/index.htm>.

"Recreational marine flares are an important part of your safety equipment on a boat. This initiative is a good time to remind boaters to check this important piece of safety equipment and ensure it is up to standard," said OPP Deputy Commissioner Larry Beechey, Provincial Commander responsible for Traffic and Marine Safety. "We encourage boaters to use this opportunity to discard their expired recreational marine flares at their local OPP detachment during the first week of August (2009) so that they can be safely disposed of by Transport Canada."

Having the right equipment on-board your boat can save your life. But remember, the best protection you can give yourself on the water is to always wear your lifejacket! OPP's Marine Programs Officers patrol Ontario waters and may check your on-board safety equipment. For more information about vessel safety equipment requirements, including recreational marine flares, visit the Transport Canada's Office of Boating website: www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

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