

Community News

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Huntington Beach marine flare safety; Resident coupon for reusable alternative

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HUNTINGTON BEACH...The City of Huntington Beach and the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) have partnered with CalRecycle to educate residents about marine flare management safety, including the advantages of reusable distress signals, to protect Huntington Beach communities and the local environment.

In the absence of safe disposal options locally, the City encourages resident boaters to consider an electronic visual distress signal device (eVDSD) as a reusable distress signal alternative to the single-use pyrotechnic marine flare.

The United States Coast Guard (USGC) requires boaters to carry several unexpired visual distress signals on board, day and night. Pyrotechnic marine flares are a common type of distress signal, but they are explosive hazardous waste and contain toxic chemicals that pose human health risks, like perchlorate. Marine flares only work once and expire 42 months after the manufacture date.

For safety and environmental reasons, it is essential to manage single-use pyrotechnic marine flares carefully. Residents should never throw flares overboard into the environment or out in household trash. However, Huntington Beach resident boaters do not have access to an ongoing marine flare disposal program, and recreational vessels generate about 174,000 pyrotechnic marine flares every year, according to the California Coastal Commission.

As added incentive to keep local communities and the environment safe, Huntington Beach residents are eligible for a discounted, USGC-approved eVDSD for day and night, when they sign a pledge not to use pyrotechnic marine flares. This discount is open to Huntington Beach residents only, while supplies last, through August 31. Sign the pledge and access the coupon at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HBmarineflare>.

The City urges residents to stay alert for future temporary collection events. To learn more about eVDSDs from the vendor, watch the Sirius Signal eVDSD demonstration video at <https://bit.ly/eVDSDdemo>.

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