

# Fire Safety Plan for Valdez Small Boat Harbor

This fire safety plan has been prepared in the spirit of requirements established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards – NFPA 303. The following plan applies to facilities operated by the Harbor Department of the City of Valdez, Alaska. These standards will define the minimum acceptable level of safety to life and property from fire and electrical hazards that occur within harbor facilities. Management of the Valdez Small Boat Harbor (VSBH) is responsible for planning and implementing a program that addresses fire safety, prevention and protection. The Harbor Department's attitude towards fire safety is reflected in the actions of our staff and harbor users.

## I. Management

- **Location:** VSBH will place detailed map placards at the head of each ramp to assist emergency personnel responding to the harbor. The placards will detail slip identifications and locations of fire safety equipment.
- **Record Keeping:** Written records will be kept by VSBH that describe identification, location, purchase date and current inspection date of all fire safety equipment within our facilities.
- **Cleanliness:** VSBH will maintain its facilities in a state of general order and cleanliness. No unconfined trash, wood waste or other debris will be allowed. Facilities will be kept free of open containers containing flammable or combustible liquids. Spills of oil, paint or fuel will be avoided. Covered containers will be provided throughout VSBH facilities for disposal of garbage and trash.
- **Shop:** Shop floors will be cleaned daily. Covered metal containers will be provided for the storage of oily rags. Smoking will be prohibited and signs posted in any area used to store fuel or other flammable liquids.
- **Maintenance:** All fire safety equipment will be inspected and maintained on a yearly basis or after use. This includes fire extinguishers, fire hose, nozzles and pumps. Walkways, piers, access roads, dock and floats will be kept clear of obstructions that would limit safe access by fire equipment.
- **Training:** Selected VSBH personnel will train with the Valdez Fire Department (VFD) at least twice a year. Training will include basic fire fighting skills, pump use and fire systems. Management will stress cooperation between the two departments. All VSBH employees will be trained in properly reporting a fire and the use of portable fire extinguishers.

- **Fire Department Liaison:** The VFD will be encouraged to visit VSBH on a regular basis to become familiar with harbor facilities. VSBH will assist the Fire Department with any fire preplanning efforts that apply to harbor facilities. VSBH will make information available to the Fire Department concerning extinguisher locations, standpipe systems, fire hydrant locations, safety equipment available, construction standards and any other information necessary for effective preplanning. Harbor residents will be encouraged to contact the VFD through **911** in the event of a suspected fire or other emergency.
- **Watch Service:** VSBH will provide funding for a night watch, in cooperation with the Port of Valdez, during the harbor's peak user season.

## II. Electrical Wiring and Equipment

- Electrical systems and equipment used within VSBH facilities will comply with NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code* and Chapter 3 of NFPA 303.
- Cords with current carrying capacity of less than fifteen (15) amps will not be used. Flexible cords will be used only in continuous lengths without splicing or taps.
- Maximum allowable current-carrying capacity of flexible cords is as follows:

AWG	AMPS
14	15
12	20
10	25
8	35
6	45
4	60

- Cords, attachment plugs and connector bodies will not be smaller than required for the rated current of the attached cord or connected equipment.
- Infrared heating lamps may only be used with porcelain type sockets.
- Any heater capable of causing a fire if overturned must be equipped with a safety switch that will disconnect electric current to the heater if overturned.
- The following power cord types are approved for use: SO, ST, STO, POW, K, S.
- The following power cord types are not approved for use: SP3, SPT3, TP, TPT, TS, TST, AFC, AFPO, CFC, CFPO, CFPD, PO1, PO2, PO,

SPT1, SPT2, SP1, C, PD, P1, P2, P, PW1, PW2, SV, SVT, SJ, SJO, SJT, SJTO.

- Any cord not listed must be inspected and approved by the Harbormaster prior to its use.

### III. Fire Protection

- **Portable Fire Extinguishers:** A 10-pound ABC dry chemical portable fire extinguisher will be provided at the end of each float that extends more than 25'. Floats that exceed 75' in length will have a 10-pound multi-purpose dry chemical portable fire extinguisher placed every 75' along the float. Vessel storage yard aisleways will have a 10-pound ABC dry chemical portable fire extinguisher placed every 100' so that an extinguisher is within 50' of any stored vessel.
- **Fixed Fire Extinguishment Systems:** New VSBH construction projects will include a plan review from the State Fire Marshall and will consider use of fixed fire extinguishment systems.
- **Transmittal of Fire Emergency:** VSBH will provide a telephone to allow for notification of fire emergencies. This telephone will require no payment to contact 911. The local emergency number, 911, will be posted by the telephone.
- **Fire Detectors:** A smoke detector will be installed in the VSBH office and shop. Smoke detectors will be installed in other areas at the direction of the Fire Chief. Smoke detectors will be tested monthly and their batteries will be replaced yearly.

### IV. Berthing and Storage

- **Wet Storage and Berthing:** Each berth will be arranged to allow a vessel to be removed safely in the event of an emergency. Ready access to the vessel for fire equipment will be provided. Electrical lighting will be provided that assures adequate illumination of all exterior areas, piers and floats.
- **Outdoor Dry Storage:** The use of portable heaters within the boat storage area is prohibited unless the heater is needed for the repair of the vessel and there is person attending the heater while it is being used. Ladders sufficiently tall enough to reach the deck of any stored vessel will be readily available. The use of blowtorches or flammable paint remover is prohibited.
- **Battery Storage:** Lead-acid type batteries should be removed for long-term storage and recharging. If it is impractical to remove the battery, the batteries may remain onboard provided:
  1. The battery compartment has adequate ventilation.
  2. A listed charger is in use.

3. The power connection to the charger consists of a three-wire cord, with not less than #14AWG conductors, attached to a 120 volt single phase current system using a control switch and approved circuit protection.
4. There is no connection on the load side of the charger from this circuit to any other device.
5. The battery is properly connected to the charger and the grounding conductor effectively grounds the charger enclosure.
6. Unattended battery chargers should be checked every two hours.

## V. Operational Hazards

- **Welding Equipment, Torches or Open Flames:** No person will use welding equipment, a burning torch or any other open flame or conduct any hot work within VSBH without a hot work permit issued by the Valdez Fire Chief. VSBH and the VFD will be notified when the hot work is completed.
- **Conditions on Individual Boats:** VSBH may have an inspection made of boats received for storage. This inspection will determine if there is the presence of any combustible vapors onboard, general cleanliness and condition of the vessel, fire safety equipment available onboard and appropriate power connections. Storage may be refused until the condition of the vessel is corrected.
- **Posting of Safe Operating Procedures:** VSBH will post a list of safe operating procedures for harbor users. The operating procedures will include information on fueling, use of charcoal cooking equipment, disposal of trash, nonsmoking areas, location of fire safety equipment and procedures for making a fire alarm. These procedures can be found in Appendix A of this document.
- **Fueling Areas:** Commercial fueling operators will have an operation plan approved by the US Coast Guard and abide by it. The City of Valdez will designate fueling areas.
- **Preferred Location:** VSBH users will fuel their vessels at designated sites or outside of the mooring basin.
- **Fuel Containers:** Gasoline, heating oil and other flammable liquids carried to vessels within VSBH will be transported in approved containers especially designed for storage and carrying of these liquids. Glass jars, open pails, or cans will not be used to carry flammable or combustible liquids within VSBH. Do not leave any fuel container on the floats or docks.
- **Safety Equipment:** VSBH users self- fueling their vessels will use approved containers and have a 10-pound ABC dry chemical portable fire extinguisher at hand. Self-fueling of vessels within the mooring basin is prohibited. The use of oil adsorbent socks and pads while fueling is required.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Valdez Small Boat Harbor Safe Operating Procedures**

1. Avoid using hibachis or charcoal grills on wooden floats or docks and/or near fueling areas.
2. No smoking near designated fueling areas.
3. Portable fire extinguishers are located along the mooring floats.
4. In the event of a fire or other emergency, call **911** from the telephones located at the top of gangways or near the Harbormaster's Office.
5. Please dispose of trash and garbage in the containers provided at the top of each gangway ramp.

#### **Fueling Procedures**

##### **Before Fueling**

- Stop all engines and auxiliaries.
- Shut off all electricity, open flames, and heat sources.
- Check bilges for fuel vapors.
- Extinguish all smoking materials.
- Close access fittings and openings that could allow fuel vapors to enter the boat's enclosed spaces.
- Remove all personnel from the boat except the person handling the fueling hose.

##### **During Fueling**

- Maintain nozzle contact with fill pipe.
- Fuel filling nozzle must be attended at all times.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Avoid overfilling.

##### **After Fueling and Before starting Engine**

- Inspect bilges for leakage or fuel odors.
- Ventilate until odors are removed.

**APPENDIX B**  
**Valdez Small Boat Harbor Contact Information**

1. Valdez Fire Department  
Post Office 307  
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Emergency: 911  
Telephone: (907) 835-4560  
Telecopier: (907) 835-3420  
Email: [gkeeney@ci.valdez.ak.us](mailto:gkeeney@ci.valdez.ak.us)  
Website: <http://www.ci.valdez.ak.us/fire/index.html>

2. Valdez Small Boat Harbor  
Post Office Box 275  
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Telephone: (907) 835-4981  
Telecopier: (907) 835-2958  
Cell: (907) 255-4981  
Email: [vdzsbh@alaska.net](mailto:vdzsbh@alaska.net)  
Website: <http://www.ci.valdez.ak.us/harbor/index.html>

3. United States Coast Guard  
Valdez Marine Safety Office  
Post Office Box 486  
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Telephone: (907) 835-7200  
Telecopier: (907) 835-7287  
Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/d17/>