

Harbour Boat Preparation and Disposal of Associated Hazardous Waste

Purpose

To identify the policies and regulations related to boat preparation and associated hazardous waste handling and disposal at PCYC.

Scope

This bulletin covers boat preparation and maintenance activities performed at PCYC in all outdoor, indoor and water areas. Primarily this includes the scraping, sanding, blasting and refinishing of boat hulls. Also covered is hull repair work, boat deck refinishing, other similar work on fiberglass and wood; and the handling/disposal of waste oil and other hazardous liquids.

The Issue/Background

Quebec environmental laws prohibit the disposal of any hazardous materials and chemical products, including any type of antifreeze and oil, into lakes and rivers.

Wastes, especially dust and particulate, waste oil and cooling agents generated during boat preparation and maintenance activities such as engine maintenance, scraping, sanding, blasting, etc can contaminate the air and/or lake water by direct runoff or by leaching through the ground. This contamination has health related consequences for the environment. Dust and particulate can also contaminate other boats in the PCYC yard and surrounding public/private buildings and properties. In such instances there can be health-related concerns and consequences for other members and the club's neighbors. This issue is an increasing concern for society. Government regulations require yacht clubs to ensure hull preparation and general maintenance activities be performed in ways that do not contaminate the environment, and accordingly do not contribute to health-related concerns.

To date PCYC has not had documented policies and regulations on this important issue. Some guidelines have been periodically communicated to members in the past. Many members have taken some measures to protect the environment. However, there is clearly a requirement for PCYC and its members to adopt and adhere to a comprehensive set of policies and regulations.

The immediate application of this bulletin at PCYC will demonstrate the club's proactive and serious approach to this issue; and also demonstrate our desire to be environmentally responsible.

Policies/Objectives

To promote the health-related safety of all individuals at PCYC when they are performing hull preparation and maintenance activities.

To address the health-related safety issues of individuals and the protection of any public/private properties in the PCYC vicinity.

To promote the protection of the environment, specifically air and water quality, through the application of Best Management Practices at PCYC.

To ensure best efforts are made by all employees and members to protect all boats and equipment in the yard, harbour and buildings, when hull preparation and maintenance procedures are being performed.

To inform and sensitize PCYC employees, members and visitors to environmental and health related safety issues and individuals' respective responsibilities.

To train PCYC employees and provide the necessary equipment and material required to effectively perform their work in compliance with this bulletin and also to enable PCYC employees to facilitate member compliance.

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Regulations/Best Practices:

- 1.1 All hull preparation activities that include scraping, sanding, blasting, chemical removal etc. must be performed using plastic sheeting, tarpaulins (or similar) under the boat to collect all dust and particulate.
- 1.2 Any sanding or blasting (with any wind) must be performed with plastic sheeting or similar material shielding the hull, to eliminate the circulation of dust and particulate to the lake, to other boats, persons or to adjacent properties.
- 1.3 All dust and particulate and other waste resulting from hull preparation must be carefully collected (avoiding any ground contamination), placed in tied garbage bags, and deposited into the PCYC refuse container.
- 1.4 The use of vacuum-assisted collection methods of dust and particulate whenever possible is recommended. The disposal of such collection must be made into the PCYC refuse container.
- 1.5 It is strongly recommended that all hull preparation (and similar) work involving scraping, sanding and/or the use of paints, coatings, chemicals etc be performed with appropriate breathing, skin and eye protection. It is mandatory for all PCYC employees and Members (when acting as volunteers), to wear such protection.
- 1.6 All "left-over" paints, coatings, chemicals etc must be safely handled and disposed of as hazardous material. Members must remove such materials from PCYC for their future use, or for disposal with their household hazardous products. PCYC's Club Manager must ensure any "left-over" materials generated by PCYC employees are handled and disposed of in the appropriate manner.
- 1.7 Any hull preparation or repair activity performed inside a PCYC building must be approved by the Harbour Master. And, when approved, must be performed in accordance with all related PCYC regulations.
- 1.8 The stripping and refinishing of any large exterior portion of a boat is not permitted in the harbour. Small projects should be undertaken with caution and the spirit of this document in mind.
- 1.9 The use of the safest and most environmentally friendly products to strip and resurface boat hulls or anti-fouling is strongly recommended.
- 1.10 All waste oils, antifreeze and cooling agents are to be drained into containers and removed from the property for proper disposal by members.
- 1.11 Members must winterize and de-winterize their engines in the yard, collecting all antifreeze, which they are required to take to an authorized disposal site.

Compliance/Responsibility

Compliance with these regulations is mandatory for all PCYC members and employees. The use of proper equipment, following regulations and procedures and taking all reasonable measures to comply with this bulletin is required. Success in meeting our objectives on this important issue will require everyone's sensitization and cooperation. The PCYC Club Manager must implement the training of staff and sensitize the membership on an ongoing basis to the concerns addressed in this document.

The Club Manager is responsible for the successful implementation and ongoing application of this bulletin and particularly the regulations herein.