



HM Coastguard
44a Marine Parade West
Lee-on-the-Solent
Hampshire
PO13 9NR

18 February 2009

TIME EXPIRED PYROTECHNICS

In an effort to negate any confusion as to the role and responsibilities of HM Coastguard with regard the disposal of Time Expired Pyrotechnics in an evolving situation the following advice should be promulgated as widely as possible to mariners using all the mediums available to you as a recognised stakeholder in our marine environment.

The advice comes in 2 forms:

- 1) An overview of the Maritime & Coastguard Agencies guidance, which can be found in full on their website (link below).
- 2) A briefing sheet detailing local arrangements for Solent Coastguard (see attachment).

MARITIME & COASTGUARD AGENCY GUIDANCE

The arrangements in place for the receipt and storage of Time Expired Pyrotechnics (TEP's) by Her Majesty's Coastguard are as follows:

HM Coastguard facilities are very limited and are only able to receive and store small amounts of TEP's. You must contact your local Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) to arrange an appointment on the next available date for receiving TEP's. You will be asked to provide details about you and your TEP's.

TEP's will only be taken from individual members of the public or small independent fishing vessel operators. Commercial organisations must make alternative arrangements for the collection and disposal of their TEP's. See Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 287 (M+F) for further details of commercial disposal options. <http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/287.pdf>

HM Coastguard is NOT responsible for the disposal of TEP's and accepts them at its own discretion and subject to storage and specially trained staff availability. Turning up on speculation may result in you being turned away. HM Coastguard does not provide a collection service.

In rare cases where a TEP's condition has deteriorated and it is deemed dangerous the MRCC may arrange for its immediate disposal. This will be at the discretion of the MRCC and subject to an inspection of its condition and the subsequent availability of a service to dispose of the item(s).

As explosives, TEP's can be dangerous and as such they should be handled and disposed of safely. Firing them off is illegal and a costly distraction to Search and Rescue services. Disposing of them through household or public waste facilities is hazardous and may result in serious injury to you or others. Dumping them generally or at official buildings, particularly unmanned local Coastguard and Royal National Lifeboat Institution stations increases the problem.

Allowing TEP's to fall into the hands of someone who knows nothing about them, particularly minors or those who may wilfully misuse them is irresponsible and potentially life threatening for those involved or others around them.

SOLENT COASTGUARD

A simple telephone call to Solent Coastguard on 02392 552100 will help avert any risk, allay any fears and identify a disposal opportunity.

The Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) at Lee-on-the-Solent provides a service for the area bounded by Chewton Bunny on the Hampshire / Dorset Border and Beachy Head (Belle Tout), East Sussex, including the Isle of Wight.

A facility to store does exist on the Isle of Wight but must still be agreed with the MRCC. Other Coastguard sites able to accept TEP's can be found at: <http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue/mcga-hmcgsar-sarsystem/pyrotechnics.htm>

Solent Coastguard will provide advice to any caller, especially those who live in Counties adjacent to Hampshire and Sussex who may be unsure which Coastguard Station they should liaise with.

See the attached guidance for Solent Coastguard arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

District Operations Manager
Solent Coastguard

TIME EXPIRED PYROTECHNICS

In light of a Government review of the future safe disposal of Time Expired Pyrotechnics (TEP's), Her Majesty's Coastguard will ONLY accept small quantities of TEP's from personal callers to your local Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) has implemented new policy which has reduced the number of qualified Staff available to provide this valuable customer service. To ensure we can maintain an appropriate level of service we have to manage your requirement against our available resources.

THIS SERVICE IS BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY

Call 02392 552100 to arrange an appointment on the next available date to handover your TEP's at the MRCC.

Please do not turn up unannounced,

We will not be able to accept your TEP's.

Commercial organisations are not entitled to this service and should therefore seek commercial disposal routes.

ADVICE:

- Ensure your TEP's are kept in a safe storage place;
- Ensure your TEP's can be transferred to the MRCC in the safest possible manner, using the original container if available;
- Always point your TEP's in a safe direction, never at anyone;
- Ensure you always handle TEP's with care, using gloves if possible;
- Damaged, split, heavily rusted or seeping TEP's should not be handled, **PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER ADVICE;**
- Do not let children carry TEP's on your behalf;
- Only drop off TEP's at the pre-arranged times;
- If in doubt please call - 02392 552100

**PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF YOUR TEP's
ILLEGALLY OR FIRE THEM OFF! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW.**

Thank you for your kind support and understanding.