



<b>MARINE PATROL UNIT</b>		
✓ <b>new:</b> <b>rescinds:</b> <b>amends:</b>		<b>cross-reference:</b>  <b>accreditation standards:</b> NYSLEAP Standard(s): 33.3, 41.3, 42.1, 42.4, 43.6 & 55.3
<b>effective date:</b> October, 2021	<b>amend date:</b>	

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to establish and describe policy and procedures for the utilization of the Marine Patrol Unit for the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office.

**II. POLICY**

Vessels provide a police presence and enforcement in areas otherwise inaccessible to standard police practices and provide the ability to respond to and support special events and calls for service. It is the policy of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office to properly equip and maintain a boat that will be utilized for accomplishing the office's mission, goals and objectives.

**III. PROCEDURE**

**A. Selection and Assignment to the Marine Patrol**

The marine patrol officer position is voluntary. Openings for positions in the marine patrol will be offered at the discretion of the Sheriff.

1. Officers selected for assignment with the marine patrol must successfully complete an approved Marine Law Enforcement training certified by The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Marine Services Bureau before beginning actual marine patrol duties.
2. Officers assigned to the marine patrol should maintain a physical condition that is consistent to perform the duties of the position.

**B. Marine Patrol Coordinator**

The Sheriff will designate a Marine Patrol Coordinator whose duties will include, but are not limited to:

1. Recordkeeping for the marine patrol;

2. Responsibility for the condition and maintenance of the boats; however, every officer on duty and operating the boat shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the boat is being operated in a safe manner;
3. Preparation of periodic reviews and personnel recommendations;
4. Assist with the coordination of necessary training courses.

#### C. Maintenance, Equipment and Supplies

1. The ballistic vest shall be worn at all times, in accordance with *G.O. 704 Body Armor*.
2. Officers assigned to the Marine Patrol Unit shall be issued specialized uniforms as approved by the Sheriff. Marine patrol officers are individually assigned equipment and uniforms through the Road Patrol Lieutenant in consultation with the Quartermaster.
3. The boat shall be equipped with a light bar providing emergency search and signal lights, as well as a siren. In addition the boat will carry that equipment required by state and federal regulations for watercrafts. The boat shall be marked with lettering to indicate that it is a Sheriff's Office vessel.
4. Prior to operating the boat, members will check gas gages, vessel equipment (i.e. lights and propellers), and will ensure that all necessary equipment is available and operational. The boat will be equipped with the following equipment:
  - Personal flotation devices (equal to the number of persons assigned to the boat)
  - Flotation coats (equal to the number of persons assigned to the boat)
  - Marine radio
  - Hand held marine flares – total of three
  - Anchor, with line
  - Towing lines and a minimum of four mooring lines
  - Tool box
  - Fenders, minimum of three
  - Individual First Aid packet
  - Blankets
  - Boat hook
5. Members assigned to a vessel are responsible for the care and cleanliness of the boat and will report any required maintenance or damage that occurs to the on-duty Sergeant and Marine Patrol Coordinator. A county incident report should be completed if applicable.
6. While the boat is in the water it will be stored at a local marina as arranged at the beginning of the season by the Marine Patrol Coordinator. During the off season, the boat will be stored at a heated storage facility as arranged by the Marine Patrol Coordinator.

#### D. Operation

1. The Sheriff's Office boat will be used for office business only. The Sheriff's patrol vessel will be utilized in boating emergencies and boating non-emergencies as outlined in *TCDOER Policy No.: 500.110 Boating and Water Emergencies*, for the enforcement of the NYS Navigation Laws (as well as other NYS Laws), and other duties as may be authorized by competent authority.
2. Deployment of the boat shall be authorized by a Lieutenant, or higher authority. In an emergency situation, deployment may be authorized by a Sergeant, but notification shall be made to a Lieutenant as soon as practical.
3. Officers who have not completed the approved training may only ride as a passenger.
4. The Sheriff's Office boat shall be operated within the confines of NYS Navigation Law and the relevant sections of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law.
5. The Sheriff's Office boat may be used for towing of civilian boats only when there is imminent risk to the civilian boat or any of its occupants, when other tow options have been exhausted, and the towing can be conducted safely and prudently to limit risk to the Sheriff's Office vessel. When towing a civilian vessel, all occupants must wear proper flotation devices.
6. Members shall not allow civilians to ride upon the Sheriff's Office boat unless part of a rescue mission or authorized by a Lieutenant or higher authority.
7. Accidents involving the Sheriff's Office boat shall be handled in accordance with *G.O. 728 Police Vehicles*.

#### Attachments:

A. *TCDOER Policy No.: 500.110 Boating and Water Emergencies*

By Order Of



Derek Osborne *Sheriff*