



Homeland
Security

PACIFIC HURON, DECEMBER 2017



CHEM NORMA, MAY 2018



High Water / Mystery Drums





The U.S. Coast Guard needs your assistance!



With the increased water levels throughout the region many homeowners are utilizing barrels such as these to mark their docks and assist in weighting them down, an understandable thing to do and actually does assist our crews by increasing the safety of the area by helping to mark potentially otherwise unseen docks by boaters.

What homeowners probably do not realize is that if these barrels are to be swept off the docks and float away, they then become a problem that the USCG has to dedicate time, money and resources to recover.

Once adrift and if unmarked by policy the Coast Guard has to classify these as "Mystery Drums", because the contents are unknown and could possibly contain dangerous chemicals, we are required to hire a private HAZMAT certified contractor to come in and recover the drum from the waterway at a price of around \$5000 per mystery drum case. During this time a Coast Guard crew needs to stay on scene with the mystery drum taking away an asset from local response.

We are asking that homeowners assist us in marking the barrels that they have placed on their docks by painting or marking a large red "X" on the drum so that Coast Guard crews can quickly identify it as a non-hazardous dock drum and it can be resolved without the need of a private contractor.

This will also allow Coast Guard response crews to be available for pressing Search and Rescue cases in the region bettering our service to the boating public.

Any questions can be answered via phone at the Sector Buffalo Command Center (716) 843-9527

Thank you for your assistance to our crews!



August 2017, Clayton NY





