

The Problem with Flares

Out-of-date visual distress signal flares are being disposed of in an unsafe manner by recreational boaters. Federal law requires recreational boat owners to purchase and maintain pyrotechnic visual distress signal flares onboard. But until now, there has been no provision for safe disposal.

Flare Facts

- ✦ Flares are hazardous waste due to reactivity, and some also contain toxic metals
- ✦ Florida boaters generate over 500,000 out-of-date flares annually
- ✦ Approximately 50% of boaters do not know that discarded flares are Hazardous Waste
- ✦ Many boaters throw out-of date flares in the trash creating a public hazard
- ✦ Some boaters dispose of old flares in the water, many of these flares wash up onto our local beaches
- ✦ Soaking flares in water is not a good disposal option since some flares react when exposed to water
- ✦ Out-of-date flares may be kept on board as “extras” for emergencies, but over time, they are less reliable
- ✦ It is against the law to ignite flares in non-emergency situations on regulated waters. Excess false alarms could leave you, or someone you love stranded in a real emergency

Other Hazardous Wastes Generated By Boaters

- ✦ Old Gasoline
- ✦ Used Batteries
- ✦ Paint and Cleaning Solvents
- ✦ Methylene Chloride Paint Stripper
- ✦ Bilge Pump Switches Containing Mercury

What About Used Oil?

*Most marinas accept used oil for recycling.
If not, Call our toll free number
and enter your zip code
or leave a message to locate the nearest*

Public Used Oil Collection Center

***1 - 800 - 741 - 4DEP
(1 - 800 - 741- 4337)***



Mismanagement of old flares can lead to tragedy

Don't throw old flares in the trash or water

Don't fire off old flares on the 4th of July
or during other holiday events

*For More information on
DEP's Flare Collection Program
please call Cheryl McKee at 561/681-6708*



Where Can Boaters Take Out-Of-Date Flares & other hazardous wastes?



**Please do your part
for a safe boating environment
Take your out-of-date flares to your local**

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center

**for safe disposal in an
approved thermal destruction burn unit**

CLEAN BOATER HABITS

Carry a trash bag on-board and never discard your garbage overboard.

Use caution in filling your fuel tank to avoid discharges to the water.

Call your county's household hazardous waste program to dispose of solvents, old gasoline, out-of-date flares, used batteries mercury containing bilge pump switches, old fire extinguishers and propane tanks.

Call 1-800-741-4DEP to locate the Public Used Oil Collection Center nearest you.

Use a marina pump-out service to dispose of sewage waste.

When possible, clean boats on land to avoid discharging soapy water to the waterway.

Protect the endangered manatee by observing speed restrictions in their habitat areas.

Protect fish nursery habitat areas by steering clear of seagrass beds.



Join Florida's Clean Marinas in keeping our waters clean, safe and productive.

TREASURE COAST COUNTIES THAT COLLECT FLARES



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTERS

Martin County

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the Palm City landfill, 4 miles west of the turnpike on SR 714 is open Mon. thru Sat. 8:00am to 5:00pm. The Haz-mobile accepts household hazardous waste each Wed. at various fire stations in the County. Call 561/288-5700 for more information.

St. Lucie County

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the landfill, 6120 Glades Cut-Off Rd., Ft. Pierce is open Mon thru Fri. 8:00am to 4:30pm and on Sat 8:00am to 3:00pm. Call 561/462-1624 for more information.

Indian River County

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the landfill, 1325 74th Ave SW, Vero Beach is open 7 days a week from 7:00am to 5:00pm plus 5 transfer stations open from 7:00am to 6:00pm 5 days a week. Call 561/770-5112 for more information.

Palm Beach County

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the landfill on Jog Road just north of 45th Street, West Palm Beach, is open Mon thru Fri 8:00am to 5:00pm. Household hazardous waste is also collected on Sat. at various transfer stations around the county. Call 561/687-1100 for more information