

# Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee



# Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan

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U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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Jul 14, 2017

Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee  
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#### PUGET SOUND HARBOR SAFETY PLAN: 2017 REVISION

As Captain of the Port for the Puget Sound region, I most strongly support the promulgation of this most recent update of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan. The Plan successfully represents best practices and standards of care that have been collaboratively developed by industry leaders, Washington State, the U.S. Coast Guard, tribal representatives, and other government agencies to mitigate risks to maritime safety and to enhance the protection of the marine environment. The care and engagement of Salish Sea waterway users and stakeholders in developing and following the Harbor Safety Plan have been critical to making these waterways among the safest in the world.

The Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee's continued success in bringing together vessel and facility operators, port users and other stakeholders is vital to identifying potential improvements to the safety, environmental protection, and efficiency of the Salish Sea Marine Transportation System. As vessel types, sizes, and traffic patterns continue to change over the years, our shared commitment will be critically important to ensuring the Salish Sea remains one of the safest Marine Transportation Systems in the world.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound is fully dedicated to partnering with the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee's diverse membership to further the goals and objectives of this Harbor Safety Plan. I encourage those who operate on the waterways of the Salish Sea to follow the Plan and the valuable marine practices it presents, to ensure we continue to make the safety of these waters a standard for others to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. A. STURGIS".

L. A. STURGIS  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port, Puget Sound



## Letter of Promulgation

Welcome to the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan. The goal of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan is to enhance marine safety and environmental stewardship via risk based decision making. First published and distributed early in 2002, the plan was intended to provide information, guidelines and Standards of Care for marine operations in Puget Sound. This revision of the plan, as well as previous versions, is the product of the collaboration of maritime stakeholders as represented on the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee, and others in our maritime community, who shared their time and expertise to help develop this plan.

**Coast Guard Captain of the Port:** The Coast Guard is the primary advisor, an active participant and major contributor to the Harbor Safety Committee and this Plan. This Plan is strongly endorsed by the Captain of the Port.

The first section of the plan is administrative, and introduces the reader to the Harbor Safety Committee and its work. The second section is primarily informative in nature, and provides important information for professional mariners transiting Puget Sound. The third section includes Standards of Care developed by the Harbor Safety Committee that formalize and document certain “good marine practice” especially important to operations in the Puget Sound region.

The Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee is committed to maintaining and updating this plan as new information and changing technologies warrant.

The Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee has a web site at [www.pshsc.org](http://www.pshsc.org) where further details regarding the activities of the Committee can be found. Comments and suggestions regarding the plan may be forwarded to the Committee through this web site. Comments may also be submitted to the Committee via the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound at 100 West Harrison Street, Suite S-560, Seattle WA 98119-4135; by phone (206) 443-3830; by Fax (206) 443-8205; or by their web site at [www.marexps.com](http://www.marexps.com).

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