

## MARINE FLARE DISPOSAL INFORMATION

Mid-Coast Solid Waste (MCSWC) provides information from the State of Maine Department of Public Safety on the process for safe Marine Flare Disposal. Please call The State Fire Marshal's office at 207-626-3870 for information on the disposal of unwanted or outdated marine flares. Callers will be educated about marine flare management safety on how they collect expired marine flares. See Notice at:

[https://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/sites/maine.gov.dps.fmo/files/inline-files/documents/marine\\_flare\\_disposal.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/sites/maine.gov.dps.fmo/files/inline-files/documents/marine_flare_disposal.pdf) flare\_disposal.pdf (maine.gov)

MCSWC can only accept marine flares from residents of the four towns we service **ONLY** during the annually sponsored Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHW) special event. **ONLY residential boaters** may bring in expired marine flares during HHW Day, commercial craft or an organization must contact the Fire Marshal's Office for assistance.

In the absence of safe disposal options locally, resident boaters are encouraged to consider an electronic visual distress signal device (eVDSD) as a reusable distress signal alternative to the single-use pyrotechnic marine flare. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) requires boaters to carry several unexpired visual distress signals on board, day and night. Pyrotechnic marine flares are a common type of distress signal, but they are explosive hazardous waste and contain toxic chemicals, like perchlorate, that pose human health risks. Marine flares only work once and expire 42 months after the manufacture date. See more information on Maine Boating Laws at: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf>

**For safety and environmental reasons, it is essential to manage single-use pyrotechnic marine flares carefully. Residents should never throw flares overboard into the environment or out in household trash.**