



PRESS RELEASE

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Coast Guard Data Shows Dangers of Fires and Explosions in Jet Skis More than 40,000 of the thrillcraft recalled from 2000 to 2003

San Francisco, CA – More than 40,000 personal watercraft have been recalled by manufacturers in the last four years due to production and design problems that could lead to fire and explosion, according to information obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard. Furthermore, 65 percent of all fires and explosions on personal watercraft result in injury or death. The data was released to Bluewater Network as a result of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the Coast Guard in November of last year.

The documents obtained by Bluewater also showed that the majority of injuries sustained from fires or explosions on jet skis are a result of manufacturer design rather than rider recklessness or inexperience. In nearly 66 percent of all fire/explosion incidents, equipment failure and/or ignition of leaking fuel were the cause of the fire while only 10 percent were the result of actions by the rider.

“Personal watercraft enthusiasts could be riding ticking time bombs,” said Carl Schneebeck, Public Lands Campaign Associate for Bluewater Network. “Now we can add fires and explosions to the long list of problems with these machines.”

The materials from the Coast Guard also revealed that tens of thousands of machines that have these potential problems are in operation and manufacturers have a limited legal obligation to notify the public concerning potential problems with personal watercraft.

The full report is available at Bluewater Network’s web site:
http://bluewaternet.org/reports/rep_pl_pwc_fireupdate.pdf

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