



# Docklines

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT Spring 2022



## Santa Barbara and Tsunamis

Following a massive undersea volcanic eruption near Tonga on Saturday, January 14, 2022, many ports and harbors along the West Coast experienced tsunamis. Fortunately, Santa Barbara was spared, only experiencing a one foot surge multiple times throughout the day but no damage was reported. Other harbors weren't so lucky. Ventura Harbor sustained hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to many docks and two Patrol boats. Santa Cruz Harbor estimated their damages at more than \$6 million.

While Tsunamis may seem like a rarity, a number have struck Santa Barbara over the years. By some estimates, over a dozen tsunamis have hit our area in the last 200 years. And, while most were poorly documented, significant tsunamis were recorded in 1812 and 1927. According to one account, the oceanic surge of the 1812 event reached the lower parts of downtown.

With that in mind, here are some natural warning signs for a tsunami?

- 1) Severe ground shaking from local earthquakes may cause tsunamis.
- 2) As a tsunami approaches the shorelines, water may recede from the coasts, exposing the ocean floor, reefs, and fish.
- 3) Abnormal ocean activity, a wall of water, and an approaching tsunami create a loud roaring sound similar to that of a train or jet aircraft.

If you experience any of these phenomena, don't wait for official evacuation orders. Immediately leave low-lying coastal areas and move to higher ground. In the case of the harbor, the closest high ground is the upper campuses of City College. Make sure that you have an evacuation and communication plan for you and your family.

It is also important to know if you are in a tsunami inundation area. The California Department of Conservation maintains [Tsunami Hazard Area Maps](#) for all coastal areas. These maps show what areas are most likely to be affected by tsunamis.

For more information on tsunamis, check out the [California Tsunami Preparedness Guide](#) and the California Hazard Update video below. With a little planning and education we can all be better prepared for tsunamis.



California Tsunami Hazard Update

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## Harbor Events on the Horizon

by Chris Bell, Waterfront Public Information Officer

May is here and that means it's time for two of our favorite Waterfront events. One event will help clean up the seafloor in the harbor, the other will help clean out your garage or boat.

Santa Barbara Harbor's Operation Clean Sweep, a seafloor debris cleanup program, will hold its 15th annual event on Saturday, May 7th from 8am to noon. A team of volunteer divers, supported by 40 or so volunteer dock workers, will remove junk from beneath the Marina 1, A-F fingers.

During past events, volunteers removed over twenty tons of debris from Santa Barbara Harbor. Items retrieved during past years ranged from bicycles, barbecues, plastic barrels, and boat propellers to wire cages, outboard engines, phones, computers, and the occasional marine battery.

We encourage vessel owners in the cleanup area not to depart or return to your slip between 8am and noon on May 7th, to help ensure the safety of Operation Clean Sweep participants. If you need to use your vessel during these hours, please contact Harbor Patrol at 805-564-5520 prior to the event. We will help you depart and return to your slip safely.

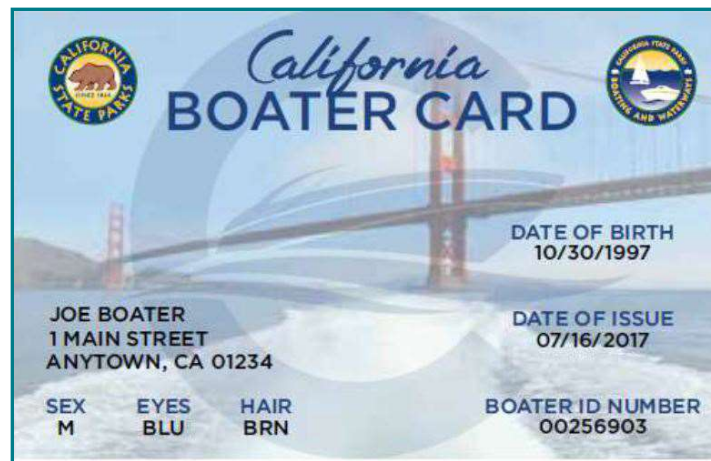
On Saturday, May 21, the 11th Annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet will attract hundreds of treasure hunters to the Main Harbor Parking Lot from 8am to noon. Dozens of vendors will display and sell things like boat rigging,

surfboards, fishing gear, inflatable boats, pumps, winches, boat motors, and other marine/nautical items.

Spend the morning looking for new gear while enjoying free coffee, fruit, and other refreshments provided by the Harbor Merchants Association. Admission is free.

Have some nautical gear you'd like to sell? Sign up as a vendor (\$10 per spot), by contacting Harbor Operations at (805) 564-5531 or visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SwapMeet](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SwapMeet). Vendor applications are available online or at the Harbormaster's office.

For more information about either event or to volunteer, contact Chris Bell at (805) 897-1962 or [cbell@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:cbell@santabarbaraca.gov).



## Mandatory Boater Education Requirements

by Erik Engebretson, Harbor Operations Manager

As a reminder, beginning on January 1, 2022, recreational powerboat operators 45 years and younger are required to carry a California Boater Card. The California Boater Card requirement will be phased in over the next several years based on operator age.

By January 2025, everyone operating a recreational vessel will be required to carry a California Boater Card while operating a mechanically driven vessel. The California Boater Card shows that its holder has successfully passed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved boater safety education examination.

NASBLA approved boating education and safety courses are available online at [www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com](http://www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com).

See below for the scheduled implementation:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Operator Age</u>
January 1, 2018	Persons 20 years of age or younger
January 1, 2019	Persons 25 years of age or younger
January 1, 2020	Persons 35 years of age or younger
January 1, 2021	Persons 40 years of age or younger
January 1, 2022	Persons 45 years of age or younger
January 1, 2023	Persons 50 years of age or younger
January 1, 2024	Persons 60 years of age or younger
January 1, 2025	All persons regardless of age

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## Cruise Ship Program Resumes

by Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director

On March 30, 2022, Mayor Randy Rowse, Councilmember Mike Jordan, City Administrator Rebecca Bjork, Waterfront PIO Chris Bell, and Waterfront Director Mike Wiltshire toured the visiting Cruise ship *Majestic Princess* and welcomed back a program that had been paused for over two years due to COVID.

The March 30<sup>th</sup> cruise ship visit is one of fifteen visits scheduled this spring. The *Majestic Princess* is one of the larger visiting ships and is scheduled to visit Santa Barbara a total of four separate times this spring. The ship was launched in 2017, is 1,083 feet long, 19-stories high, and has a guest capacity of 3,560. City staff and officials were given a full tour of the ship including a meeting with the Captain and the Environmental Compliance Officer. In addition to being regulated at the federal and state level, each ship signs a Captains Declaration with the City of Santa Barbara agreeing to additional environment practices specific to Santa Barbara and the Channel.

Despite the ship's capacity of 3,560, the March 30<sup>th</sup> visit only had 1,835 passengers aboard. As an added measure to protect against COVID, most cruise lines are sailing at 50% to 70% capacity. Not all passengers decide to get off the ship when anchored in Santa Barbara, but those who do are shuttled by tenders from about 1-mile offshore to the Harbor by way of Santa Barbara Landing. Once there, passengers are greeted by an amazing team made up of volunteer ambassadors, SB Landing staff, shuttle service staff, security, and Police presence.

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## Business Activity Permits and Six-Pack Charters

By Pat Henry, Senior Property Management Specialist

Santa Barbara Municipal Code requires anyone providing a business service in the Santa Barbara Harbor to first obtain a Business Activity Permit (BAP) from the Waterfront Department. The Waterfront Department established the BAP program in 1972, to form rules and guidelines for individuals who have no fixed place of business or lease space in the Harbor District but wish to conduct marine-related business in that District.

The BAP program provides these individuals, which includes charter businesses, the opportunity to promote and offer their services in a safe, orderly, and professional manner.

### **Six (6) Pack Charters....**

You are a boat owner and you pay monthly slip fees in the Santa Barbara Harbor. Your vessel sits there, waiting for a good use and the thought crosses your mind, "Hey, I could take people out fishing, maybe go see the sun setting..." Interesting thoughts and ideas but before you begin to walk down that primrose path, you have to ask yourself: what are the rules, regulations, and policies governing this type of activity? YES! There are rules, regulations, and policies in place to help protect all parties involved.

Here are the main points:

1. The applicant for a Charter Business Activity Permit must possess and show proof of a current United States Coast Guard license to carry passengers.
2. The applicant must also be a vessel owner and slip permittee in the designated slip.
3. The applicant must obtain \$2M Commercial liability insurance naming the City of Santa Barbara as additionally insured.
4. The applicant must obtain a business license from City Hall.
5. Annual permit fee is \$250.
6. A 30 day wait period before issuing the permit allows time to address concerns before Permitting is finalized.

For more information please contact Patrick Henry, Senior Property Management Specialist, at (805)897-1961 or [phenry@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:phenry@santabarbaraca.gov).



Find Out More

**City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department**

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