

**TOP COAST GUARD MISSIONS**  
**2009**  
**Sector Northern New England**

2009 has been a dynamic year for Coast Guard Sector Northern New England. Very few sectors across the country perform all of the Coast Guard's missions including search and rescue, law enforcement, ice breaking operations, living marine resource enforcement, and environmental protection. Below is a list of the Sector's top 10 cases from 2009 in which they have served the public in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont in all of the Coast Guard's mission areas.

**1) Rescue at Thunder Hole in Acadia National Park**

This year, Sector Northern New England responded to 660 cases and saved 19 lives. This case highlights the level of commitment and professionalism that Coast Guard men and women demonstrate every day to rescue those in peril.



*On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, spectators near Thunder Hole in Acadia National Park were viewing waves being driven ashore by Hurricane Bill. A rogue wave knocked dozens of people to the ground, many suffering injuries. Seven people were swept off the ledge into the ocean. Four of those people were able to swim to safety but a man and two children were carried out into the surf.*

*A Coast Guard 47-foot Motor Life Boat crew was training several miles away and responded.*

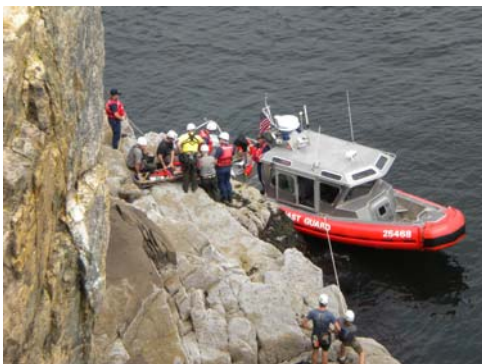
*A rescue controller from Sector Northern New England's Command Center coordinated the boat crew's efforts and Coast Guard jet and helicopter crews from Cape Cod, Mass., later joined the search.*

*Through the coordinated effort, Peter Axilrod, 56, of New York, N.Y. and Simone Pelletier, 12, of Belfast, Maine, were rescued after about an hour in the surf. Seven-year-old Clio Axilrod, who had no vital signs when she was recovered, could not be revived despite the efforts of the rescue crew and a medical team at a nearby hospital.*

[Thunder Hole Rescue](#)

**2) Acadia Cliff Rescue**

This case is a perfect example of the environmental challenges that Coast Guard personnel face every day while operating in Sector Northern New England's area of operation.



*On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Station Southwest Harbor joined with the National Park Service to rescue an injured rock climber off of Otter Cliffs in Acadia National Park. Coast Guard personnel responded due to the water being the safest and*



*quickest option. The woman was safely removed from the rocks and brought to safety by way of a Coast Guard 25 foot vessel.*

### **3) Asphalt Seminole Spill**

Every year, 174 million barrels of oil come into Sector Northern New England making environmental protection paramount. As seen in this case, the men and women of Sector Northern New England demonstrate a high level of readiness on a day to day basis in support of that mission.



*On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the tanker Asphalt Seminole reported the accidental discharge of PG 64-28 Asphalt from the Sprague Energy Terminal in South Portland. The discharge size was only 20 bbls due to the quick response efforts. Had the response time been slower, the discharge could have been up to 40,000 bbls.*

[\*Asphalt Seminole Video\*](#)

### **4) Kennebec Ice Breaking**

In Sector Northern New England's area of operation, ice breaking is a unique mission that is critical for local commerce as the Kennebec River is used by barges year round transporting goods. If the ice is not tended to promptly, the entire shipping lane is completely shut down until late spring. In addition, breaking ice on the Kennebec River is crucial for flood relief because it frees the flow of water allowing the Kennebec River to act as a large drain for the spring run off.

[\*Kennebec Ice Breaking Video\*](#)

### **5) American Eagle Grounding**

Grounding is the #1 cause of search and rescue for the Coast Guard. In Sector Northern New England's area of operation, this is particularly important due to the extreme tidal changes.



*On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 92 foot sailing vessel American Eagle ran aground on rocks near Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Station Boothbay Harbor responded to the case and reported no injuries. The vessel was later re-floated once the tide rose.*



## 6) Rockland Mariner Hoisting Rescue

Beyond responding to search and rescue cases, the Coast Guard also assists those needing immediate medical attention while on the high seas. In Sector Northern New England, there are over 10,000 vessels operating and the Coast Guard stands ready to protect those who may need assistance.



*On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Coast Guard Sector Northern New England was notified that a crewmember aboard the sailing vessel Shiela had sustained a possible spine injury and needed medical assistance. A 47-foot boat crew from Coast Guard Station Rockland launched to the scene and escorted the 27-foot sailboat to meet an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, who would airlift the patient to a local medical facility in Rockland, Maine.*

## 7) Isle of Shoals Kayak Case

Each year the Coast Guard invests in a program called Paddle Smart that offers free information through seminars to educate kayakers about basic boating safety. In Sector Northern New England, canoe and kayak related cases make up approximately 39 percent of the total fatalities. This number is staggering due largely to the frigid water temperatures experienced in Sector Northern New England throughout most of the year.

[\*Isle of Shoals Kayak Case Video\*](#)

## 8) Cumberland Allision

There are 22 ferries that operate throughout Sector Northern New England making marine safety a significant mission focus for Sector personnel.



*The Cumberland is a 207 foot commuter ferry that operates out of Burlington, Vermont. This ferry links Grand Isle to Plattsburgh, New York. In January, the Cumberland struck a pier causing injuries to passenger and crew.*



## 9) Open Lighthouse Day 2009

Open Lighthouse Day is an annual event in which the Maine Office of Tourism and the Coast Guard partner to open nearly 30 of Maine's iconic lighthouse structures in one day for the public to visit. This year's event which took place in September was a great success as 28 lighthouses were opened with an estimated 15,500 people visiting them.



## 10) Alternative Energy

Sector Northern New England has been a front runner in terms of alternative energy initiatives as compared to other Coast Guard units across the country. The Coast Guard and Sector Northern New England in particular have been utilizing solar energy in certain areas to supplement traditional power sources over the past few years. Additionally and more recently, Sector Northern New England has also been working with wind turbines and tidal turbines in an attempt to take full advantage of Maine's extreme tidal fluctuations and offshore winds.

[Tidal Energy Video](#)

## Honorable Mention: US Coast Guard *Barque Eagle* Visit to Maine

The Coast Guard training vessel *Barque Eagle* made three port call visits to Sector Northern New England during August. The event highlighted

Maine's proud maritime history and was a great opportunity for the Coast Guard to join with local communities for public tours and receptions aboard the vessel.

