

Caribbean: St Vincent Coast Guard Security Advice to Yacht Owners

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Whilst this advice dates from 2008, it still stands today, not only for St. Vincent but for all the Caribbean islands.

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Advice to Yacht Owners and Operators

Waterway Watch

- Do not encourage Strangers on your yacht.
- When in a foreign port seek advice of officials (customs, immigration and police) as to ship chandlers and water taxi operators.
- Have them recommend or verify persons you intend to do business with such as water taxi operators etc.
- Do not expose expensive items such as cameras etc.
- Secure small boats and outboard engines onboard overnight.
- Remove access ladders when not in immediate use.
- Keep all doors, hatches and port holes secured.
- Keep a security watch while underway or if at anchor in a lonely and secluded area.
- Introduce yourself to other yacht owners when at anchor – this will assist them in identifying strangers should they board your vessel.
- If you are leaving your boat let other yacht owners in your vicinity know.
- Install audible access alarms.
- Keep deck lights on in the night.
- Do not anchor in dark, lonely and secluded areas.

- Report your arrival to Customs when in a country's territorial waters.
- Know the local Coastguard contact telephone number.
- Know the local Police contact telephone number.
- Use only certified water taxi operators, avoid freelancers.
- Do not keep large sums of cash on board.

BE PART OF WATERWAY WATCH

What to do -

Observe and report:

You know what is normal and what's not. NEVER approach someone who may present a risk to you personally

- Provide details and descriptions of: Individuals; Vessel or vessels; Activity
- Take notes

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Anyone loitering near a boat or waterfront facility without apparent reason or purpose.
- Anyone trying to forcibly access a boat or waterfront facility.
- Any suspicious person trying to rent a boat but obviously unfamiliar with boating.
- Any person who appears to be "casing" a boat or waterfront facility.
- Anyone photographing or sketching or videotaping waterfront facilities without apparent purpose.
- Anyone who appears too eager to use boating "lingo".
- Boaters who appear under the control of another party.
- Boaters or others on the waterfront who seem to make an obvious effort to avoid contact with others.
- Boats with unusual or obviously inappropriate modifications.
- Cargo loads that maybe explosives, chemical containers or weapons.
- Any boater dumping liquid or solid materials or any other unusual objects overboard.
- Any activity that to you appears out of the ordinary.

Call the Police / Coast Guard number when you observe suspicious activity

Tell others about Waterway Watch.

SEE SOMETHING? DO THIS

IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY –

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

Otherwise

Take notes – who, what, where, when

Take photographs if you can do so safely

Report what you have seen to

Police emergency 911 / 999

Coast Guard Operations: Tel: 457 4578 / 457 4554

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