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Enjoy Your Barbecues This Summer, But Not On Your Boat

Warmer weather is promised, so taking the boat out and enjoying a barbecue with family and friends may be on the cards, however the BSS has simple message, never use a barbecue on board a boat - take it ashore, enjoy it safely.

Graham Watts, BSS Manager said:

‘The twin risks of fire and carbon monoxide are ever present and boaters should not ignore the threat.

‘With the barbecue off the boat there’s no threat to decks or close-by materials being burnt or set alight by the heat from the red hot charcoal.

‘The barbecue should also be far enough away from the boat so that any hot embers blowing in the wind can’t reach boat furnishings or any anything else that can burn like magazines or clothes.’

The continuing deaths of campers from carbon monoxide, suggests that many people don’t realise the dangerous amounts of the highly toxic gas given off by hot charcoal. So never bring a lit or cooling barbecue into a cabin or covered cockpit area. The only safe charcoal is that which is stone-cold.

Lastly, before you dispose of a used charcoal you must ensure that it completely cold to the touch, either let it burn out and go cold or pour water onto the fire. Used charcoal should be disposed of responsibly.

More information about the risks of CO visit www.boatsafetyscheme.com/co .

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

The BSS is a public safety project owned jointly by British Waterways and the Environment Agency. At least 14 other navigation and harbour authorities have also adopted it. The navigation authorities’ purposes for the Scheme are to help reduce the risks of fire, explosion and pollution on small craft. This is done by promoting fire safety and pollution avoidance advice to help boat owners keep themselves and their crews’ safe as well as regular examination of fuel systems, gas systems, electrical systems and appliances.

The BSS examination and certificate BSS certificates have a life span of four years. Navigation authorities using the Scheme usually require a valid BSS certificate at the time of licensing, registration, toll renewal or similar. The certificate is issued to boat that is found to be compliant with all the BSS requirements relevant for that boat. These can be found in the BSS Essential Guide which can be freely downloaded or read on www.boatsafetyscheme.com. The compliance check is carried out by an authorized, independent practitioner known as a BSS examiner.