



Volunteer Marine Rescue Brisbane Inc

Providing a Safer Marine Environment for Our Community

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Water Police Notification Requirements

1.0 Introduction

The following sets out the requirements and circumstances under which notification to the Brisbane Water Police may be necessary when either of our rescue vessels leaves our Base for whatever reason (crew training, patrol, Search & Rescue).

2.0 References

Nil

3.0 Detailed Information

- a) Crew training or patrols may be carried out during a normal duty roster at the discretion of the Duty Master/Master.
- b) We are required to notify the Water Police, either by phone or by VHF Channel 63, of the movements of our vessels when on the water in order that they may be in a better position to deploy Search & Rescue Units (SRU's) promptly, when necessary, and without duplication. The following sets out the criteria by which this notification is required.
- c) Imagine an area bounded by the mainland to the West, the Brisbane River to the South and out to the Compass Adjusting Buoy, and from the Compass Adjusting Buoy across to the Southern side of the Houghton Highway bridge. We are not required to notify the Water Police if we are carrying out patrols or crew training within this area.
- d) Should an incident occur within the area, the requirement to notify the Water Police exists and details of the problem and our intended action must be forwarded to them.
- e) Should our vessel(s) move outside the area we are required to notify the Water Police, as we are leaving Cabbage Tree Creek, of our intended destination and the reason for the voyage eg training, distressed vessel recovery etc. Once at the intended destination and having completed whatever the mission was, we are required to notify them that we are leaving the area for another area that may be some distance away, or returning to Base. Provided there are no other distractions on the way home there is no need to notify the Water Police that you have arrived at base.
- f) If the reason for the trip involves assisting a distressed vessel, then your call to the Water Police should include your reason for the voyage. Once on the scene an assessment should be made as to the seriousness of the problem. If the distressed vessel simply requires a tow then notify the Water Police, once you have secured the tow line and are ready to depart, of your actions and where you intend to deliver the distressed vessel to. Once arriving at this destination notify the Water Police of your safe arrival with the distressed vessel. If it is at our Base then no further notification is required. If the destination is not our Base, then notify them that you are now leaving that area to return to base, no further notification will be required on arrival at Base.
- g) If you have to respond to a callout instigated by the Water Police, obtain all the details and log them, including the Officer's name, and inform him of your estimated time of departure and/or arrival at the scene. Once on scene, assess the situation and notify the Water Police of your intentions.



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- h) Should any incident be considered a major one where the possibility of loss of life or property may be involved eg fire or sinking, the Police may take control of the incident once you notify them of the severity of the problem and you may be appointed as "on scene Co-ordinator" until the Police arrive to take control.

4.0 Summary

Volunteer Rescue Groups are considered by the Water Police to be their eyes and ears on the water and must be kept informed at all times of what is happening within the extensive area over which they have the ultimate responsibility, this allows them to make accurate and informed decisions when any incident occurs.

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