



**Law Enforcement Training and Certification Committee
2024- 2025 Committee Charges and Membership**

**ANNUAL REPORT
September 16,2025**

Carleton Richardson (ME) – Chair
Michael Schipritt (RI) – V-Chair

NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee Charter

The Enforcement & Training Committee will work to advance boating safety by researching and disseminating information on new techniques and technologies for marine law enforcement officers; developing training and certification programs; and addressing boating under the influence issues.

These tasks will be addressed through the work of two subcommittees: Training & Certification and Enforcement Techniques & Technology.

Committee 2024 - 2029 Vision Statement: Revised 3-13-25

To assist this committee in charting the necessary building blocks and progressive charges over the next five years, this committee has developed several strategic elements. These elements will become the guideposts in all charges developed over the five-year period. Each committee cycle will define the objectives/charges that will promote the strategic elements and help define the actionable goals for each committee work year.

- 1. Promote the adoption of the BOAT Program in all states and territories.*
- 2. Maintain national training standards and third-party certification and acceptance consistent with and accepted by DHS. Promote those national standards in "all hazards" related legislation.*
- 3. Identify, study, and report to membership on emerging technology and applications for the maritime community of law enforcement and first responders.*
- 4. Assure that marine law enforcement and first responders have the tools, information, and messaging to reduce incidents, injuries, and fatalities within the recreational boating community.*
- 5. Assure that marine law enforcement and first responders are trained and ready to ensure the safety and security of America's waterways and maritime community.*

ENF_2025-1 "Operation Dry Water"

"Evaluate and refresh all law enforcement guidance documents and templates being distributed by NASBLA's Operation Dry Water".

Charge Leader: John Balbin

Working Group: Josh Hudson, Michael Schipritt, Rob Akin, Josh Mooi, Austin Franzoy

1. Review campaign resources and website updates.
2. Spotlight on another state agency or participating unit.
3. Check metrics on the awards – are they properly adjusted – Model shaped around the AFWA model. Regional award submissions for individual or group accomplishment.
4. Timeline check with Taylor on when materials would be ready for review

NEEDS STATEMENT: Recreational boater deaths with alcohol use listed as the primary contributing factor have continued to decrease since the inception of Operation Dry Water in 2006. To keep that number trending downward, it is important for the law enforcement committee to continue to monitor and advise on the ODW campaign to ensure that the needs and wants of those implementing the campaign on the local, state, and federal level are being satisfied and the size and impact of the campaign continues to grow nationally.

(Needs Statement revised 3-13-25)

(NASBLA: 2.1,2.2,3.2) (USCG: Initiative 1)

TASKS:

Identified ODW enforcement weekend. July 4-5-6, 2025

- Participating Agencies: [2025 participating agencies](#)
- ODW Research & Statistics: [Research & Statistics](#)
- New Awards matrix established 2023: (Did away with agency size)
 - [2025 Awards Program](#)
 - Agency recognition based on the AFWA awards model
 - Regional award winners -based on nominations.
 - National "ODW Officer of the Year" Award criteria
 - Evaluate 2024 modifications to awards and reporting data. (See ODW 2025 Report Form:

- [2025 Spotlight article](#) submitted by Mike Schipritt (RI)
- Wisconsin to host the National Kickoff Event
 - July 2, 2025
- ODW Awards
 - Regional Law Enforcement Award
 - Taylor Kirshe sent ODW awards links and information directly to those who have reported for ODW following the three-day weekend
 - Added a yes/no question at the end of the report form asking if they would like to submit award nominations – if yes kick them to awards page. Taylor followed up with those who said yes, but do not submit a nomination.
 - John Balbin pledged to draft the 2026 ODW Spotlight article – Guam
- Report Form – Additions to the 2025 forms: [ODW Report Form 2025](#)
 - SFSTs conducted
 - Number of Designated Operators Encountered
- Taylor Kirshe sent out interest form – planning for 2026 and future ODW Kickoff events
- ODW Historical results: [ODW Historical results](#)

Charge ENF_2025-1 Recommendation to hold as continuing Charge.

- Addition to 2026 ODW Charge: What states accept the seated field sobriety test?

ENF_TC-2025-2 Micro-learning development

Identify, produce, and publish micro learning modules in alignment with subject matter areas of interest as forward from the results of the National Training Survey.

Charge Leader: Adam Block

Working Group: Scott McLain, Tom Edwards

TASKS:

- Add content ideas for micro-videos table attached below.
- Additional table for IBOTMF priorities.
- Post Garrison's "Tips for shooting Video" document on Basecamp.
- Need to identify contributors for video production.
- Distribute Video list and Tip document

- ✓ **NEEDS STATEMENT:** As more law enforcement agencies employ and expand their mission and response requirements, it has been recognized as a critical need for the law enforcement committee to identify and compile the "best practices" elements for development into a national training curriculum for marine officers. It is imperative that officers have quick and easy access to short crisp modules of learning to pinpoint their training needs. The goal of this committee will be to keep pace with areas of subject matter micro learning topics, producing a full catalog of topics as refresher or new areas of learning for the maritime officer.

(NASBLA: 2.6, 3.1) (USCG: Initiative 1).

See Inventory and assignments for 2024 in attachment:
ENF_2025-2-A

- Spring academy sessions proved to be a great opportunity to capture Content (Pennsylvania examples from 2023)
- Continuing to work on the open content items
 - Collecting existing ECOS videos and new examples (Bluetooth technology)
- The following video library was last updated in 2024 Final Report See Attachment (ENF_2025-2-A) – (sent to Adam Block 2-19-25 – and posted to Basecamp)
- Sent request to Pam Dillon for topic suggestions

- Looking for maintenance Videos
- Get list posted to Basecamp
 - Sent to committee list
- Post microlearning videos to Vimeo and share link with the committee
- 2025 videos produced:

[180 Degree Turn](#)

[How to Tie a Bowline Knot](#)

[How to Tie a Figure 8 Knot](#)

Charge ENF_2025-2. Recommendation for a continuing Charge.

ENF_2025-3 "Cut-Off Switch Wear"

Evaluate the current number of marine law enforcement agencies within member organizations who have adopted a mandatory engine cut-off switch wear policy. Based on individual state evaluations, identify existing barriers preventing adoption of a mandatory wear policy for ECOS. Define strategies to help non-compliant states remove barriers to policy acceptance.

Charge Leader: Jared Bluem

Working Group: Scott McLain, Jason Luce, Clay Marques

NEEDS STATEMENT: Use of engine cut-off switches (ECOS) has been proven to aid in reducing and preventing both injuries and deaths within the boating community. Compliance in the use of ECOS devices remains low. It is the purpose of the law enforcement committee to gather information on compliance rates, policy mandates, and other relevant data just to assist law enforcement agencies with the development of policies and procedures for ECOS wear by officers while underway.

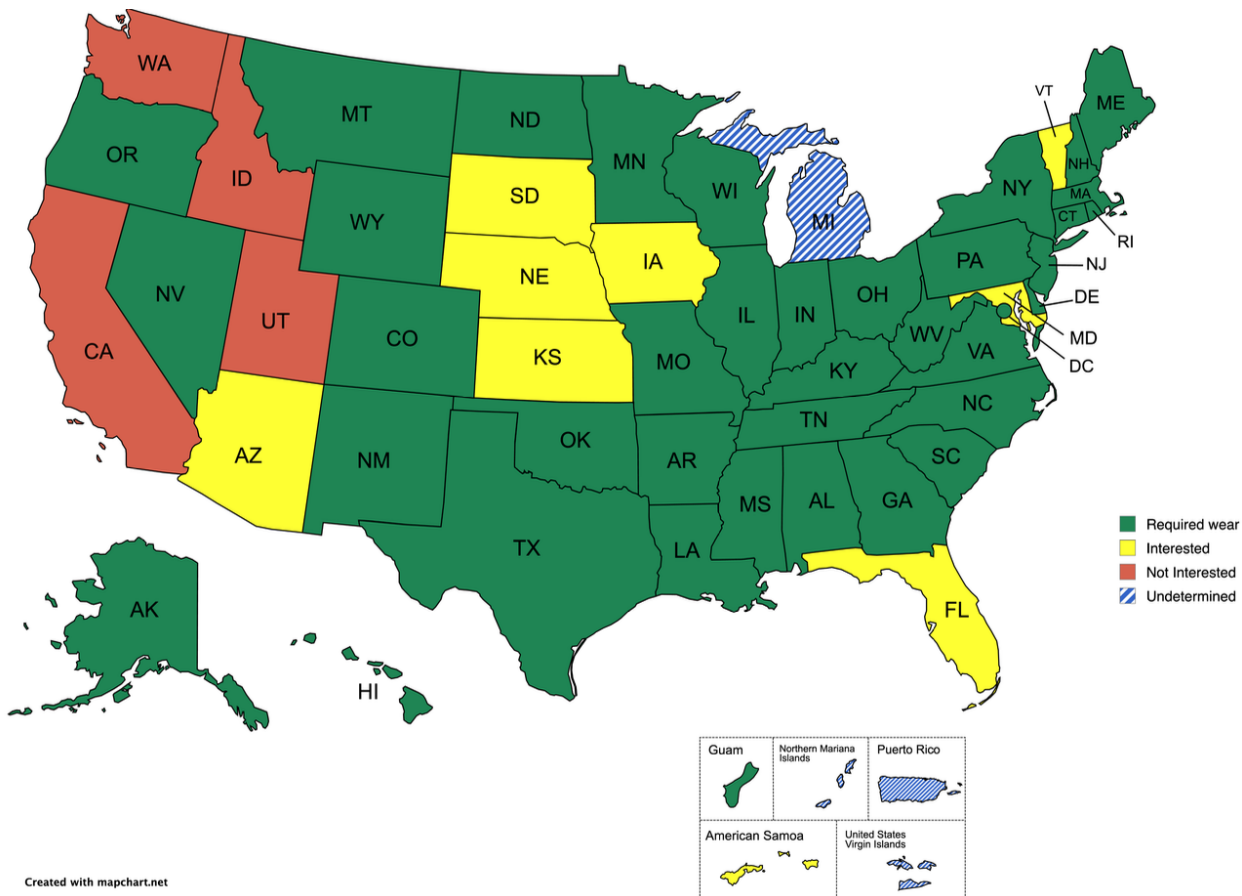
The goal is to enhance officer safety as well as promote usage within the recreational boating community by example unless or until compliance is required by legislation.

(NASBLA: 3.1, 5.3) (USCG; Initiative 1)

TASKS:

1. Marketing resources inventory – incorporate into basic training.
2. Re-design ECOS survey
 - a. Added a couple of questions – asking if the respondent wanted more information
 - b. If you are using an ECOS – what brand?
 - c. Identify any problems?
 - d. Changed question about state use requirement – to help create new map.
This charge only points to member state agencies.
3. Design Host Break-out Session in Des Moines.
4. Continue to track wireless testing.
5. Latest map revision: 5-18-25
Difficult to connect with right agency person to share sample policy
6. Outreach to states that haven't responded to determine status.
7. Utilize existing policy models
8. Recurring charge until all states are green
9. Map below needs to be updated
 - a. Guam, Colorado, North Carolina, Delaware, Indiana, Massachusetts, & South Carolina should be green

- ECOS Map updated 5-18-25



During the 2025 committee cycle successfully gained six (6) states and the territory of Guam to the ECOS compliance map.

Charge ENF_2024-3. Recommendation for a continuing Charge.

Research and provide information on new technology specifically being developed for maritime law enforcement utilization. Develop a catalog of equipment and information on utilization for member maritime agencies.

Charge Leader: Rob Akin

Working Group: Andrew Cox, Guy Wendorf, Jeremy Davis

Needs Statement: As collective leaders in the field of maritime law enforcement, it is important that the law enforcement committee work together to identify new and innovative ways to leverage technological development for the purpose of enhancing public safety, saving civilian and officer lives, and apprehending criminals. The law enforcement committee shall use this charge as a mechanism to gather thoughts,

ideas, conduct research, and provide a comprehensive catalog on new technology and thus providing maritime law enforcement professionals a product that keeps them informed and ahead of the rapid pace technological changing world they patrol.

(NASBLA: 3.1, 5.3) (USCG; Initiative 1)

TASKS:

- Luis Sosa produced PPT during the 2023 cycle on the topics identified from Survey data:
 - Side Scan-Sonar – Mass has extensive experience with side-scan – presentation cost/ training/ maintenance.
 - Artificial intelligence – Vessel monitoring – 2025 - Lincoln labs are a resource for AI technology – Rob Akin will have a presentation
 - Blue Force tracking – secure messaging – target interception – 2025 - Raymarine 5000 SAR pattern plotting (Preferred Raymarine technology)

2025 Projects:

- Sea Keeper – stabilization position hold for vessels – Rob Akin
- Added SeaKeeper Gyroscopic Stabilizer – survey developed
 - Rob will send out survey results to the committee once this is

distributed

- AI Vessel Monitoring – states likely will not be able to afford this, eliminated because of cost
- Side Scan Sonar – working on gathering write ups on possible options
 - Aris – soundmetrics.com

- 2024 Updated technology catalog

[Technology catalog](#)

Charge ENF_2025-4. Recommendation for a continuing Charge.

"Design and conduct a national training survey to determine recommendations for the NASBLA BOAT Advisory Panel, for new course development in service of the NASBLA membership and the maritime law enforcement community".

Charge Leader : Scott McLain

Working Group: Eric Deneault, William Perdue, Guy Wendorf

NEEDS Statement: NASBLA's membership and the maritime law enforcement and public safety community is a valued priority. To support elements of the Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan, NASBLA and the BOAT Program's Strategic Plans, a highly trained, qualified, and credentialed maritime law enforcement/public safety professional is an important and essential ingredient to our collective success. Training, and the competencies of the professionals that patrol America's waterways, are directly related to the safety, security, and recreational enjoyment of those waterways. Results will be forwarded to the BOAT Advisory Panel, for action.

(NASBLA: 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.) (USCG: Initiative 1)

Objectives:

- Review 2022 Survey data – was distributed to all certificate holders, BLAs and Associates.
- 434 responses in 2022 survey
- 241 member agency participants
- 16 fire departments
- 145 police agencies
- Design new survey model based on past data analysis
- 2024 Nat'l Survey
- Survey Responses (Attachment ENF_2024-5-A) – (sent to Scott McLain on 2-19-25 – and posted to Basecmap)
- Survey closed COB on 6-28-24

TASKS:

- DATA analyzation continued – 2025 – (Attachment ENF_2025-5-A)
- Questions have been developed for the survey
 - Trying to make the questions more specific
- Plan is to conduct the survey every other year
 - Send survey to BLAs and encourage them to pass it down to their officers – in addition to sending it to the list we have
- Could consider breaking down the survey responses by state/region
 - Who is completing this? Who is not?
- Include survey length at the start of the survey
- In 2024, we received 173 responses
- **Questions to add / adjust:**
 - How many years of law enforcement experience do you have?
 - What NASBLA courses have you completed? Include a checklist of current NASBLA courses.
 - Include a question about funding:
 - Do you have funding to provide training to your officers, or do you rely on grant-funded trainings?

Outcome: [2024 Nat'l Training Survey](#)

See attachment ENF_2025-5-A – 2026 survey recommendations

Charge ENF_2025-5. Recommendation for a continuing Charge

ENF_2024-6 Incident Management

Develop a Policy and Procedure Manual for State agencies involved in multiple jurisdiction Incident Management/Incident Support Teams.

Charge Leader: Rob Akin

Working Group: Mike Schipritt, Mike Bonham, Brian Moore, Josh Mooi

Needs Statement: Collaboration with all jurisdictional emergency response partners, USCG and USCG AUX require alignment with processes and procedures to facilitate effective force multiplier between local, state, and federal initiatives in Incident Management training, exercise, and response.

TASKS:

- Lack of effective management protocols
 - Pre-planning communication challenges
 - Pre-planning cooperative agreements
- Strengthen Incident Management coordination between jurisdictions
- Identify **best** practices from various states (data base examples)
- Share model strategies of a combination of training/exercises
- Model database of how states manage resources
- Inventory examples of successful incident management
- As a new charge for this cycle the charge group began asking States if they were using incident Management for Waterway incident. In the National training survey, the charge had a question regarding incident management. There were 127 responses to this question. 80% of the respondents answered that they use incident management in some fashion in water way incidents. 27% responded that they generally use it, 28% responded that they often use it and 25% responded that they sometimes use it.
- When looking at these surveys and discussing as a group there are agencies that use incident management and have policies and procedures and there are other agencies that use incident management but there are no policies and procedures to follow.
- Another item that the charge brought forward to investigate with NASBLA delivery of ICS training modified for maritime ops – Would FEMA recognition be possible?

- For this charge there were discussions on coming up with a library or data collection to have sample policies and procedures for agencies to be able to pull from to assist with incident management teams and growth and their States. This will help with having some consistency on incident management and growth with partnerships.
- Some of the areas of discussion were around Coast Guard Communications and partnerships along with neighboring State partnerships, Fire Departments and Local PDs. This Library will show how to better communicate, respond to incidents on the water and procedures. Some of this material can be checklist of action items or protocols to follow.
- The next step in this charge is looking at what States use incident management well and have defined procedures and collect them into a database and state comparing how it is being used nationally. This will help identify best practices and have a starting point for growth. Some of the objectives being:
 - Strengthen Incident Management coordination
 - Identify best practices from various states (data base examples)
 - Share model strategies of a combination of training/exercises
 - Model database of how states manage resources
 - Inventory examples of successful incident management
- Module 6 – BOSAR – Build reference guide to module 6
- ICS training
- Lessons learned
 - Schipritt started a folder in Basecamp for Incident Management, notes and guidelines for lessons learned
 - High profile boating incidents
 - Contact states with some of these
 - Send to Chiefs – include this in note to Frampton
 - Share after action reports

Charge ENF_2025-6. Recommendation for a continuing Charge.

ENF_2025-7 NAV Rule online training course (new Charge)

Conduct a full assessment, update, and revise the existing NAV Rule online training course.

Charge Leader: Josh Hudson

Working Group: Tom Edwards

Needs Statement: The committee feels it is time to re-visit the current online training on Navigation Rules. The revitalization of the learning experience will update and improve the overall learning experience.

Tasks:

- Review the 2024 evaluation report That report was sent to Kalkomey for evaluation and feedback.
- Kalkomey provided feedback on 7-28-24 – which needs to be further evaluated by this charge team. (See Attached Kalkomey feedback report– ENF_2025-7-A).
- Sent to Josh Hudson 2-19-25 – and posted to Basecamp
- Lots of updates needed.
- Less than 50 people have completed it in the 6-year period.
- Does not seem like Kalkomey wants to do anything with this either, without additional funding.
- Is this costing NASBLA money to keep this up and running? (No cost to NASBLA)
- Discuss this with Kalkomey – where to go from here? Funding? Give access to the public?
- Does NASBLA have the ability to update the course and host it on our own? eLearning Center? What was agreed to in the original contract with Kalkomey?

Accomplishments:

The full team review report has been sent to Kalkomey. LLC. The online developer and provider, for evaluation and feedback.

[NAV Rules assessment w/ Kalkomey response](#)

Charge ENF_2025-7. Recommendation until a business plan can support this course offering – this charge has been completed. Course content is outdated, and the price point is too high to attract participation.

ENF_2025-8 Template for Port Security Grant Applications

Create a Job aid and template for the Port Security grant application process, specifically to assist agencies in applying for PSGs to acquire NASBLA BOAT training. There are member states that didn't know they could get training funded through the PSG (staff suggestion).

Charge Leader: Guy Wendorf

Working Group: Josh Hudson, Josh Mooi

NEEDS STATEMENT: PORT SECURITY GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE

With the increasing need for MLEO's to stay proficient and gain improved strategies within their patrol techniques, agencies need applicable training for the maritime environment. NASBLA B.O.A.T. offerings focus on these MLEO needs. However, with economic challenges ebbing and flowing, it is evident that agencies struggle with funding such training opportunities. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security *Port Security Grant Program* awards state, local, territorial, and private sector partners funding for such endeavors. Our members need more awareness of this availability, and tools to clarify and streamline the process.

TASKS:

- Address nuances
- Director Livingston willing to vet the template with FEMA and the USCG once this committee has a draft document.
- Contacts beyond the BLAs – SME on grants similar to this, what they have done that has been successful to secure funding.
- Advertising – letting people know they are eligible to apply for this funding for training
- Outline the approval chain: Capt. Of the Port, District Port Security Specialist, USCG review at Headquarters – final review and award through FEMA
- Define point of contact at the USCG Headquarters who handles these grants – good to connect with them to understand their priorities.
- This Charge was delayed due to the very late release of the 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Charge ENF_2025-8. Recommendation for a continuing Charge.

Enforcement and Training Committee

ATTACHMENTS

2025 Committee Roster page 18

ENF_2025-2-A
Video Inventory page 19

ENF_2025-5-A
Survey recommendations page 21

2024/2025 Enforcement and Training Committee Roster				
Name	Agency/Company	State	Email	Member Type
Carleton Richardson CHAIR	Maine IFW- Warden Service	ME	carleton.richardson@maine.gov	State
Michael Schipritt V-CHAIR	RI - Div of law Enforcement	RI	michael.schipritt@dem.ri.gov	State
Aaron Kerr	NASBLA Ex-Board	MA	aaron.kerr@wyo.gov	Ex-Board
Brian Moore	USCG Liason	USCG	Brian.m.moore@uscg.mil	USCG
Adam Block	MN DNR	MN	Adam.block@state.mn.us	State
Amanda Foster	Marine Patrol Division	AS	michelle.foster@sar.as.gov	State
Austin Franzoy	New Mexico State Parks	NM	austin.franzoy@emnrd.nm.gov	State
Bradley Bunting	Maryland DNR	MD	bradley.bunting@maryland.gov	State
Clay Marques	Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	LA	cmarques@wlf.la.gov	State
Eric Deneault	Kansas Wildlife and Parks	KS	eric.deneault@ks.gov	State
Guy Wendorf	Indiana Conservation LE	IN	Gwendorf@dnr.in.gov	State
Hector O. Medina Jr.	Guam Police Department	GU	hector.medina@gpd.guam.gov	State
Jason Luce	Maine IFW- Warden Service	ME	jason.luce@maine.gov	State
Jerad Bluem	North Dakota Game and Fish	ND	jbluem@nd.gov	State
Jeremy Davis	Ohio DNR - Watercraft	OH	jeremy.davis@dnr.ohio.gov	State
John Balbin	Guam Police Department	GU	john.balbin@gpd.guam.gov	State
Joshua Hudson	Delaware NRP F&W	DE	joshua.hudson@delaware.gov	State
Joshua Mooi	Illinois DNR	IL	joshua.mooi@illinois.gov	State
Robert Akin	Mass Environmental Police	MA	robert.akin@mass.gov	State
Scott McLain	NHSP- Marine Patrol (part time employee)	NH	sam3142@yahoo.com	State
Thomas Edwards	PA Fish and Boat Commission	PA	thedwards@pa.gov	State
Travis Murray	VA Wildlife Resources	VA	travis.murray@dwr.virginia.gov	State
William Perdue	New Mexico State Parks	NM	william.perdue@emnrd.nm.gov	State
Enforcement Associate Members				
Andrew Cox	FLIR/Raymarine	OR	Andrew.Cox2@Teledyne.com	Associate
Michael Bonham	Osage County Sheriff's Office	MO	sheriff@osagesheriff.org	Associate
Ross Johnston	First Watch Gear	Ontario	ross@firstwatchgear.com	Associate
Lee Gates	WSIA		lee@wsia.net	Associate
Tina Cardone	C-Port		tcardone@cport.us	Associate

ATTACHMENT ENF_2025-2-A Micro-Learning

IBO-MPF Train the Trainer Course – Videos/ yellow=priorities for new or replacement videos --- Blue = micro-videos produced during the 2023-2024 committee cycle---- Green= micro-videos produced 2024-2025

Slide	Address	Name
35	https://vimeo.com/344090249	USCG 2019 - Life Jacket Labels v6-captioned
39	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5eniRI0mXM	Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need to Know
48	PA video Tom Edwards	Officer Communications –
54	YouTube	Officer launching mishap (humorous)
63	NASBLA Vimeo	Safety Chains – PA FBC
71	https://youtu.be/vVVEI917UOU	How To Back a Trailer
73	PA Video	How To Launch Your Boat at the Ramp Launch a Boat Solo
81	PA Video Boatmaster Boatmaster Boatmaster	Pre-Launch Checklist Proper light connections Trailer bunk inspection Tire inspection and Maint
84	PA Video Tom Edwards	Bowline Knot
85	PA Video Tom Edwards	Figure 8 Knot
86	PA VIDEO	How to Tie a Cleat Hitch
88	PA Video	How to Tie a Truckers Hitch
95	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYvKHHvuh1U . New Zealand	Basic Maintenance for the Boat Operator – Adam will confirm
98	NASBLA Vimeo	How to Change a Prop – PA FBC
126	PA video NASBLA Vimeo	Kill Switch Lanyard use. Corporal Anderson – DE Natural Resources Police
133	no current video Tennessee- Roy Smith	Weathervane effect- Adam Will confirm
139	PA video Tom Edwards	180-degree turn in close quarters – Adam will confirm
155	no current video – “Count the ways” awareness – Wyoming – Aaron Kerr Indiana – Guy Wendorf	River hazards Overview/take additional training – Submitted by Guy Wendorf
170	YouTube	Helicopter towing a boat mishap
173	NASBLA Vimeo	How to set up a rear tow for towing another vessel - MA
175	YouTube	Hip Tow
189	https://youtu.be/TuJolxmeNt Boat US Foundation	Foundation Findings #44 Jonboat – use of a rescue sling (or loop)-
191	NASBLA Vimeo	Unplanned Person Overboard
194	PA Video	How to Throw a Throw Bag

	Pa Video	Throw bag w/victim miss
195	no current video	PIW Recovery Options- Adam will confirm
197	NASBLA Vimeo	Capsized Vessels – Assisting a paddler - AZ
199	YouTube	Options for Righting a Large Capsized Boat
208	NASBLA Vimeo	What we do – Stopping a SUP violation - AZ
217	NASBLA Vimeo	Placing a life jacket on a person in handcuffs - WY
220	no current video	Night Operation Considerations- Adam will confirm
	PA-Video – Tom Edwqards	Pre-Departure Checklist

NATIONAL TRAINING SURVEY DATA (2024)

Scott McLain

After reviewing the data that was compiled from the 2024 survey, it became apparent that I did not have to re-invent the wheel. Most of it was captured in a way that does not require further analysis. However, there are few points and some general take aways from the information.

Q2 Years of experience- roughly 50% of the people taking the survey have 21+ years of experience. How do we get the younger, less experienced officers to give us input? I would suspect a lot of the people with 21+ years on the job may not be actively patrolling on a daily basis. Their perspective on what is important would be drastically different from a first-year officer who works in the field every day.

Q3 Micro-Learning- There were several individual responses requesting SFST videos be added to the micro-learning library. I'm not an instructor in SFST's although I was trained and delivered them hundreds of times. I would question putting those in a public domain for access. If they are not 100% accurate, I could see a defense attorney using it against officers.

Q9 Boat training for non-LE personnel- A number of agencies are using the IBO-MPF course from NASBLA and skipping the LE sections. Others are using a combination of other NASBLA courses and in-house FTO training. It is apparent that there is a need for non-LE boat training for agencies. This would be a great opportunity for NASBLA to fine tune a version of the IBO-MPF course that may benefit these agencies. Currently the course can be used with the enforcement sections removed for this purpose. The data collected does a good job with all the other questions and I don't believe any further explanation or interpretation is required.

The additional comments section appears to be an area where people used to air their grievances or give praise. One comment did stick out. To paraphrase, it said most departments are not willing to dish out \$30,000 for a course. Again, I think this creates an opportunity for us to make sure all agencies are aware of the TTT courses NASBLA offers. It's a lot less expensive to send one or two people to a course that could return and train their entire agency.

I think in future surveys, we need a majority of the questions to be "yes" or "no" or have a few options for people to select. The open-ended questions have so many different answers that analysis is moot. With that said, it is important to have a few open ended/opinion questions so we know what people think, but collecting data from closed ended questions will be much easier overall.