

USCG Marine Board of Investigation

Capsizing of Liftboat SEACOR POWER with Multiple Losses of Life

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

1. Introduction. Pursuant to the authority contained in Title 46, United States Code (U.S.C), Section 6301 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, the Coast Guard has convened a Marine Board of Investigation to investigate the capsizing of the Liftboat SEACOR POWER and to hold a public hearing. To ensure the safety of all involved personnel and spectators, and to comply with Department of Homeland Security policy, the SEACOR POWER Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) has taken steps to reduce the risks of exposure to COVID-19 during its public hearing.

2. Application. These measures apply to the Coast Guard MBI team and every person who will be present at the hearing.

3. Daily Self-Evaluation. Any person physically attending the hearing shall comply with the following self-evaluation procedures. Every morning BEFORE coming to the hearing venue, each participant should “self-evaluate” utilizing the three COVID-19 questions below. If an individual answers "YES" to any question, they SHOULD NOT appear at the hearing venue. If the individual who answered “YES” is a member of the Coast Guard, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), a Party in Interest (PII) or a PII representative, a witness or a witness representative, then that individual should notify LT Sharyl Pels (through their legal representative, if applicable) IMMEDIATELY. LT Pels can be reached via call/text at (504) 256- 2672.

a. COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS:

1) Are you experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever greater than 100.4°F, chills, new persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle pains or body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea)?

2) Within the last 14 days, have you been in close physical contact with any person you know to have had an active case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 at the time of contact?

Note: For purposes of question number 2, an active case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 means that a health care professional confirmed that the person had COVID-19 through laboratory testing, and that contact with the person occurred within 14 days of the person receiving confirmation that he or she had COVID-19.

3) In the last 14 days, have you received instructions from a public health authority to self-observe, self-isolate, or self-quarantine?

4. Body Temperature Reading. Before being permitted to enter the hearing venue each day, an assigned Coast Guard team member will check each person's body temperature using a medical grade no-touch infrared thermometer. An individual with a body temperature greater than 100.4°F will not be allowed into the hearing venue. All participants should be aware that temperature checks are not a failsafe method to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into the environment. The most effective methods to protect everyone from COVID-19 include continued adherence to preventative measures (mask wear, hand washing, social distancing, etc.), following a self-check/buddy-check system, STAYING HOME if sick, vaccination, and following CDC guidance.

5. Face Coverings Required for All Attendees. Before being permitted to enter the hearing venue each day, each person will be required to put on a face covering. Face coverings will also be required during the daily set-up and break-down of the hearing space. For the purposes of the hearing, the individual who is actively testifying or asking questions of the witness may take off his or her face covering for the duration of the questioning. When consultations are necessary, the witness and counsel will be required to wear face coverings. Masks will be provided at the hearing entrance for those individuals that arrive without a mask, or for those that arrive without a mask that complies with the DHS and CDC standards.

6. Social Distancing and Other Mitigation Measures. In addition to the requirements above, the MBI will institute the following mitigation measures:

- a. To the maximum extent possible during the hearing, all persons shall maintain social distancing from other people who are not from their household.
 - 1) The hearing space will be configured in a way that maintains a minimum of 6 feet between the witness table, the PII tables, and the Coast Guard/NTSB panel table.
 - 2) Individuals in the hearing space will be asked not approach the witness table, the tables reserved for the Parties in Interest (PII) and the MBI team area, unless specially authorized to do so.
 - 3) Some exceptions may be made by the MBI Chairman in limited circumstances, but the equivalent level of safety should be maintained at all times.
 - 4) The public seating will be arranged so that the chairs spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- b. Hand sanitizer will be located at the entrances to the hearing venue and working spaces, and at multiple locations throughout the hearing venue.
- c. The witness table, microphone, and other associated items placed for the use of the witness and counsel, will be sanitized between each in-person witness testimony. All tables, door handles, and other high-touch surfaces will be sanitized daily.
- d. Individuals shall follow the hotel's face covering and social distancing requirements when they are outside of the hearing space, but inside the hotel.

7. Conclusion. Due to changing conditions, individuals attending the hearing should remain flexible, as this COVID-19 mitigation plan is subject to change. If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19 after attending the hearing, they shall notify LT Sharyl Pels (through their legal representative, if applicable) IMMEDIATELY. LT Pels can be reached via call/text at (504) 256- 2672. Rapid notification will allow the MBI team to plan for and take mitigation steps as soon as possible. For individuals who do not wish to attend the hearing in person, the event will be streamed live on the following website:
<https://livestream.com/uscginvestigations>