



Expired Marine Flare Recycling and Disposal in British Columbia (Feb. 2011)

All marine flares must be approved by Transport Canada. There are four types of flares: Type A – Rocket Parachute, Type B – Multi-Star, Type C – Hand-Held, Type D – Smoke Signal. For further information on the different characteristics of each type, and the quantity required for your vessel, please refer to the Safe Boating Guide.

Flares are approved for four years from the date of manufacture, which is marked on each device. Expired flares must be disposed of in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Options for disposal of expired flares:

Some retailers may accept expired flares when a new purchase is made. Please check with your local marine flare retailer.

The RCMP Explosives Disposal Unit has trained the staff of Pacific Blasting and Demolition Ltd. in the safe dismantling, recycling, and environmentally appropriate disposal methods for outdated flares.

At this time (Feb. 2011) expired flares may be dropped off at the Pacific Blasting yard located at 3183 Norland Avenue, Burnaby. Pacific Blasting is currently in the process of setting up other collection depots for flares at several retailers and marinas around BC.

There is a charge per flare to cover the costs of the disposal process (dismantling by trained technicians, recycling, transportation, and proper disposal of non-recyclable components). Current costs are \$2 (Types B&C) or \$6 (Types A&D). For more information, please contact Mark Katrichak (Pacific Blasting Operations Coordinator at 604-205-6890 or 604-209-7954).

Possible future alternatives:

- Transport Canada, in partnership with the National Research Council, is studying the feasibility of extending the service life of flares beyond four years.
- Revisions to the regulations, which would reduce the flare carriage requirements for small vessels, may be considered.
- Manufacturers and retailers may become more involved in “lifecycle management” whereby a fee for disposal will be included in the purchase price as is done for vehicle batteries and tires.
- Alternative technologies such as laser flares are also being considered. However these devices are currently not approved as marine distress signals and must be used with extreme caution to prevent eye injury.