

## Getting started

Here are the prerequisites for becoming a crewmember:

1. Get to know us! We ask that you attend one of our recruitment sessions. Information on upcoming sessions can be found at [www.unit35.org](http://www.unit35.org). These sessions familiarize you with the work of the unit, and will help you decide if membership is right for you.
2. Obtain a **Pleasure Craft Operator Card** issued by the Canadian Coast Guard. This certification is available through the Unit and other agencies.
3. Obtain a **Restricted Radio Operator's Certificate (Maritime)**. This certification is also available through the Unit and other agencies.

Once those three requirements are met, you are eligible to apply for membership in the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. Membership is subject to a three-month probationary period.



## Our Rescue Vessel

Auxiliary 35 uses a Zodiac Hurricane 8.5 metre 'rigid hull inflatable boat' or RHIB. This rugged, powerful and stable rescue craft is well suited to the challenges of Victoria's coastline and the range of tasks the unit is called on to perform. The boat features:

- Twin 225 hp outboard engines
- Long range fuel capacity
- Dual marine VHF radios
- Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation equipment
- Radar
- Radio direction finding kit
- First aid equipment
- Salvage/fire pump
- Heavy-duty tow line
- High-powered spotlights
- Emergency beacon
- Self-righting equipment

# Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary



## Unit 35

## Victoria

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For more information:  
[www.unit35.org](http://www.unit35.org)

Membership coordinator:  
[membership@unit35.org](mailto:membership@unit35.org)

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## The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is a national non-profit organization that provides assistance to the Canadian Coast Guard, including marine search and rescue services and promotion of safe boating.

### Auxiliary Unit 35 – Victoria

Unit 35 serves the busy Victoria waterfront, covering an area from Trial Island to the east, Race Rocks to the west, and south through the Juan de Fuca Strait to the U.S. border. Unit 35 is among several auxiliary units that serve southern Vancouver Island. There are also units in Sooke, Oak Bay, and Sidney.

### What we do

We provide 24 hour, 365 day on-call marine search and rescue coverage, supporting the Coast Guard, Department of National Defense, police, and other emergency organizations. We also provide general marine assistance, such as towing disabled vessels, and we participate in special events in Victoria's harbours. We promote safe boating practices and education.

### Who we are

We are a group of volunteers from all walks of life who bring a wide variety of skills and experience to the Auxiliary and the boating community.

### Where we get our funding

Auxiliary 35 is supported by the **Victoria Marine Rescue Society**, a non-profit group established to provide administrative and fundraising services to the unit. Major funding is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary—Pacific Region.

## How to get involved

There are many ways you can get involved with Auxiliary Unit 35.

- You can **join a crew** and become active in training, search and rescue, and other Unit 35 functions.
- You can **volunteer with the Victoria Marine Rescue Society** and provide valuable support and fundraising for Unit 35.
- You can **donate**. Your tax-deductible contribution goes towards the maintenance and upgrading of equipment so that Unit 35 will always be ready to respond to mariners in distress.

## What crew members do

- Crew members volunteer to be on call for shifts - typically one weekend or five weekdays per month.
- During that time they commit to remaining within 20 minutes of the rescue vessel and are ready to respond 24 hours a day.
- They carry pagers which are activated by the Rescue Coordination Centre in the event of an emergency.
- They participate in training to maintain their seamanship, first aid, and search and rescue skills.
- Aboard the rescue vessel, duties include helmsman, lookout, navigation, communications, tow line handling, and search and rescue.

## Training

Some auxiliary members have extensive backgrounds in marine activities, however it is not a requirement for membership. Unit 35 provides all the training needed to become an effective crew member.

Instruction is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, and various affiliated agencies. Classroom training sessions are held once a month. Special training, such as first aid, is provided on a regular basis. Individual crews carry out on-water training during their shifts.

A crew training manual is available on the Unit 35 web site. Topics include:

- Personal and vessel safety
- Practical seamanship
- Boat handling
- Electronic communications
- Navigation
- Search and rescue techniques

## Crew levels

Crew members may progress through several levels:

- Basic Crew
  - Advanced Crew
  - Coxswain
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