



# MARINE FLARE FACTSHEET



## What Are Marine Flares?

A **visual distress signal** (VDS) is used to summon help on a boat and should only be displayed if there is immediate or potential danger. The U.S. Coast Guard requires that most boaters operating on certain waterways to comply with USCG requirements to carry either:

- 3 day and night pyrotechnic devices,
- 1 daytime and 1 night-time non-pyrotechnic device,
- Or, a combination of both previous options.

Failure to have flares (or having expired flares) could result in a \$1,100 fine.



## Issues with Single-Use Marine Flares:

- Contain toxic metals and pollutants, such as **perchlorate**, which have negative impacts on human and environmental health
- Often **expire** 36 - 42 months after manufacturing and require special handling when being disposed
- California lacks safe and permanent disposal option for these flares
- Proper disposal of marine flares can cost local governments between \$10 - \$350 to dispose of just **one** single-use marine flare



## Benefits of Electronic Visual Distress Signal Devices (eVDSs):

- **Reusable**, which allows it to be tested before leaving shore and saves money as it doesn't need to be repurchased
- **Battery operated** and can run for up to 60 hours
- **Waterproof** and **floats** so can be retrieved if dropped overboard
- Easy to operate, and family friendly
- **USCG-approved** and visible up to 10 nautical miles

## Learn More

Scan the QR code to learn more about how to properly dispose of your expired marine flares and switching to eVDSs!

