

# **CG Concerned: Boating Mishaps**

The Coast Guard is concerned about two recent boating accidents. These accidents resulted in the death of one man and serious injury to another, according to Coast Guard boating accident reports.

The first accident brought an over-looked fire hazard to the Coast Guard's attention. A Juneau man was seriously burned in refueling his alcohol stove before allowing it to cool sufficiently. The alcohol stove retains heat after the flame has been turned off and can ignite the alcohol during refueling.

The other accident points out the danger of boaters carrying their skiffs on the swim step. A Sitka man was asphyxiated last month when his eight foot skiff slipped from his swim step and funnelled exhaust fumes into the cabin.

The Coast Guard recommends that you do not carry your skiff on the swim step, if you wish to carry the skiff on the stern it should be fastened securely flush to the stern.

Winter boaters are urged to call their nearest Coast Guard ship, station or Boating Safety Office for more information about winter boating safety.