

EC-SAR

Eckerd College Search and Rescue



The Eckerd College Search and Rescue Team (EC-SAR) was established in 1971, and is the only collegiate volunteer maritime search and rescue team in the United States. Its mission is to provide assistance to the Tampa Bay boating community through a co-curricular program that teaches students lifetime skills and promotes community service. The Team just celebrated 52 years of service, proving to be a distinctive and sustainable characteristic of Eckerd College and the surrounding communities.

Working closely with the US Coast Guard, 911 Emergency Medical Response, and other state and local agencies, EC-SAR provides 24-hour maritime assistance, responding to virtually any sort of distress, disaster, or problem imaginable. Under the direction of professionally trained staff members, students coordinate the utilization of four rescue boats and an operations/communications center to save lives and property on a daily basis. Last year EC-SAR responded to 376 calls for assistance, helping 586 people and saving \$7,702,500 of property from loss or damage.

Current Fleet of Vessels Used in Operations

- Rescue Vessel #4 - 2009 Century 23' w/Mercury 250hp Engine
- Rescue Vessel #5 - 2016 Robalo 24' w/ Twin Yamaha 150hp Engines
- Rescue Vessel #6 - 2004 Century 26'6" w/Twin Mercury 200hp Engines
- Rescue Vessel #7 - 2022 Robalo 24' w/ Twin Yamaha 200hp Engines

Area Covered – 500 Square Nautical Miles

- Tampa and Boca Ciega Bay (Surrounding waters of Southern Pinellas County)
- Northern Boundary - John's Pass: 27°48.50 N
- Southern Boundary - Longboat Pass: 27°26.00 N
- Approximately 10 miles offshore into the Gulf of Mexico: 082°55.70

Assistance Provided

- All Services are Free of Charge, Offered 24 Hours/Day, 7 Days/Week
- Towing to Nearest Safe Mooring
- Search and Rescue Services
- Coordinating Searches for missing persons or overdue vessels
- Dewatering sinking vessels
- Firefighting
- Pulling vessels from aground
- Responding to Pinellas County 9-1-1, Maritime Rescue Calls as a Basic Life Support Provider (BLS) in EC-SAR's service area.



Please Help Us Help You!!!

Monetary and equipment donations and sponsorships are vital for the continued success of EC-SAR operations. EC-SAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

LIFETIME SPORTS • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY SERVICE

Eckerd College Waterfront Program

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