

Response to the Office of the State
Coroner of New South Wales

**Report into Boating Incident
Pittwater
19 January 2006**

Coroner	Deputy State Coroner, P. MacMahon
Date of findings	27 March 2008
Inquest location	Glebe
Recommendation(s)	The incident was examined and reported on by the Office of the Coroner. The Coroner made one recommendation relevant to NSW Maritime in relation to carbon monoxide poisoning.
Status of recommendations	Completed.

Background

On the evening of 19 January 2006, two men were on-board a yacht having sailed from Terrigal to The Basin on Pittwater. One of the men went to sleep while the second lit a kerosene lamp and then a methylated spirit stove. On receiving a telephone call from a friend wishing to be transported to the vessel, the second man left the vessel via a dinghy, leaving both the lamp and the stove lit. Once on shore the second man turned to see the vessel well alight. Despite assistance from others, the fire could not be contained and the vessel eventually sank. The body of the first man was recovered the following day by police divers. The Coroner found he had died of smoke and carbon monoxide inhalation.

PITTWATER, 19 JANUARY 2006

No.	Coroner's recommendation	NSW Maritime's response ¹
1.	<p>That NSW Maritime undertake an education campaign throughout the boating community highlighting the dangers of liquid combustibles in the maritime environment and methods or practices available to minimise such dangers.</p>	<p>NSW Maritime has introduced a number of initiatives to highlight the dangers associated with carbon monoxide poisoning. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amended the Marine Safety (General) Regulations 2009 to require a minimum ski rope length of 7 metres • extensive media campaigns • the 'You're the Skipper, you're responsible' campaign brochure includes information on carbon monoxide poisoning • dedicated pamphlet on carbon monoxide poisoning on vessels • dedicated page on the NSW Maritime website with comprehensive information on carbon monoxide poisoning which is available in English, Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese • an emphasis on carbon monoxide poisoning included in the boating safety seminar package • carbon monoxide poisoning emergency response details included in the boating handbook. <p>The Emergencies Section of the Boating Handbook includes information on safety with fuel stoves and lamps aboard vessels.</p> <p>This recommendation is completed.</p>

¹ The response should be considered in conjunction with the published regulations, policies and safety initiatives outlined on the NSW Maritime website and in published materials.