



PRESS RELEASE

Boat Fires on the Inland Waterways

Statistics indicate that, since Christmas 2006, to date, there have been over 20 fires on narrowboats on Britain's inland waterways (some fatal) and the annual figure is 50 plus. In these circumstances AWCC is making a strong recommendation that all boaters should fit smoke alarms in their boats. A new standard is expected to be in place very soon that will specify their suitability for marine installation. Meanwhile, boaters should contact their local Fire and Rescue service for advice. A number of these authorities already offer a fire safety inspection for boats and this service is expected to be rolled out across the UK.

As there have also been a number of fatal incidents on boats as a result of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. AWCC is also strongly recommending the installation of suitable CO detectors. Again, boaters should contact their local Fire & Rescue Service for advice.

Note for Editors

The Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs is the UK's voice for over 100 boating clubs countrywide representing over 6000 boats and up to 20,000 family members within the Association. It campaigns vigorously in all aspects of inland waterways and has been active in expressing the views of our individual members in all matters affecting boaters and cruising. It enters into negotiations with British Waterways and the Environment Agency and other bodies at national, regional and local levels.

The AWCC also joins with other national waterways user associations as an Associate Member of the Parliamentary Waterways Group, where we seek to influence the parliamentary view of the waterways of this country. The AWCC, together with the Inland Waterways Association, represented the user community, by attending and giving evidence to the Select Committee enquiry into the inland waterways some three years ago. The AWCC has positive views on the future development and use of the waterways, which it has expressed to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and its predecessors, over many years.

For further details about AWCC, contact Malcolm Wood, National Communications Officer on 01689 862046. The text of this press release can be downloaded from the AWCC website at:

<http://www.awcc.org.uk>

14 May 2007