



Environmental Facts That Support the Use of SOS Distress Lights

The Weems & Plath SOS Distress Light is the only responsible solution to an urgent environmental concern caused by improper disposal of pyrotechnic flares that are class 1.4 explosives. This SOS light is a safe, non-toxic, fully recyclable, user friendly LED light signal that, along with the day flag, meets United States Coast Guard requirements for day and night use on a recreational boat.

How does the use of one SOS Distress light help the environment?

- By eliminating the need to purchase at least three toxic flares per boat that expire after three years and then require disposal and repurchase
(7 million boats* x 3 = 21 million flares)
- By stopping contamination of landfills, ground water and oceans
 - 7 million flares expire each year and only 9% are disposed of properly – taken to designated hazardous waste sites**
 - Each year millions of expired flares end up in landfills or at the bottom of the ocean. According to a 2005 study by the State of Rhode Island one flare contaminates up to 240,000 gallons of ground water
- By stopping the stockpiling of hazardous expired flares on boats or at home because of lack of legal, economical, convenient, and safe methods of disposal
- By keeping flares off boats and out of marina and boatyard dumpsters
- By eliminating the expensive carbon footprint of proper incineration
- By keeping our highways safe by eliminating the need to transport class 1.4 explosives
- By keeping class 1.4 explosives out of our stores, therefore avoiding risk and the need for special insurance and documentation
- By avoiding hazardous health complications created by perchlorates in drinking water (Perchlorates, used as an oxidizer to allow fires/explosions to take place without an external oxygen source, can interfere with the body's ability to absorb iodine which impacts the thyroid)

* According to 2015 USCG Recreational Boating Statistics, 11 million recreational boats are registered in the USA. The 7 million boats mentioned above comes from subtracting 4 million boats under 16 feet and boats registered in states with no large bodies of water.

**WPI/USCG Disposal of Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals, pg 22. Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency survey results (2000)