



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information January 2019



Allegheny River

Seventh Street Bridge (0.7): Due to a containment system, vertical clearance reduced to 38.38 feet above normal pool for the mid 180 feet of the main navigational span.

Ohio River

Proposed New Bridge (75.5): Pre-application stage. The new bridge will provide a minimum of 800 feet of horizontal clearance. Environmental review underway.

Bellaire Bridge (94.3): Demolition date to be determined.

Vanport Bridge (28.0): Due to a containment system, vertical clearance is reduced to 64 feet.

Monongahela River

Liberty Bridge (1.1): Vertical clearance in the navigation span reduced by 4 feet due to containment system. Containment follows contour of bridge providing 70 feet of vertical clearance above NP at center and 40 of vertical clearance above NP at pier faces. At various times and locations, channel's horizontal clearance may be temporarily reduced by up to 100 feet due to the presence of a floating work plant.

Birmingham Bridge (2.3): Due to construction, an access platform has temporarily reduced bridge's vertical clearance by 4 ft.

Charleroi-Monessen Bridge (41.0): Due to shoaling, L/D red pier light moved 140 feet channel ward to mark edge. Center green range lights have been moved 70 feet channel ward to mark center of navigation channel.

Areas of Interest

1. **Minimum random drug testing rate set at 50 percent:**

The Coast Guard announced in the Federal Register that the calendar year 2019 minimum random drug testing rate is set at 50 percent of covered crewmembers. This rate is effective January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2019/01/02/1-2-2019-minimum-random-drug-testing-rate-set-at-50-percent/>

2. **EPIRBS and false alerts:**

After responding to over 700 false alerts in 2018, the Coast Guard is urging anyone with an emergency position indicating radio beacon to properly register their device. Owners of commercial fishing vessels, uninspected passenger vessels that carry six or more people, and uninspected commercial vessels are legally required to carry an EPIRB. However, the Coast Guard recommends that every mariner who transits offshore or on long voyages should carry an EPIRB.

<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2019/01/03/1-3-2019-epirbs-and-false-alerts/>

3. **To access the full library of FAQs regarding Subchapter M, visit TVNCOE's website.**

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Traveling-Inspector-Staff-CG-5P-TI/Towing-Vessel-National-Center-of-Expertise/SubMFAQs/>



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4. NATIONAL MARITIME CENTER: Mitigation Efforts Due to Lapse in Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations and Partial Government Shutdown

Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) (National Endorsements only) that expire between December 22, 2018, and January 31, 2019, are extended as valid until March 31, 2019. Print the attached letter and carry it with your credential.

If you have questions, visit the NMC website, or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by using the NMC online chat system, by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).