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**The Mariners' Museum and Park to Host US Sailing-Sanctioned International Safety at Sea Hands-On Training in a Pivotal Race Year**



**NEWPORT NEWS, VA** — The Mariners' Museum and Park will host its annual [International Safety at Sea Hands-On Training](#) on **Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Presented in partnership with Landfall Navigation, this comprehensive course prepares sailors for survival offshore in demanding situations and emergencies, meeting World Sailing's Offshore Personal Survival Course guidelines.

This US Sailing-sanctioned course is designed for sailors of all experience levels, from cruisers and racers to offshore veterans. Participants will earn certification for completing a US Sailing Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-On Training, valid for five years.

2026 carries added significance as a major race year, with a packed calendar that highlights the sport's competitive spirit and the crucial importance of safety preparation for those heading offshore. Many

sailors are competing in both local and international races that require specific certification, elevating the emphasis on offshore readiness.

Before taking the hands-on course, participants must complete the Online Offshore Safety at Sea Course, which provides foundational knowledge. The hands-on portion builds on that knowledge with practical, real-world instruction from experienced lifelong sailors and safety experts.

Major training topics include lessons learned from recent incidents, updates on safety requirements and communication protocols, damage control techniques, fire prevention and firefighting, and Personal Flotation Device (PDF) protocol.

One of the day's highlights is the in-water session. Attendees will practice wearing and inflating PFDs in foul-weather gear, participate in individual and group cold-water survival techniques, and learn how to fight hypothermia. Participants will also practice righting, boarding, and working together in a life raft, building critical skills that can save lives in an emergency.

Early Bird registration is \$325, available through February 28. After February 28, tickets are \$345. Registration closes on April 8 at 4 p.m. (ET). Mariners' Museum Members also receive the discounted rate of \$325. Space is limited to 50 participants.

Interested parties can register and get more information online or contact Johnnie Barefoot at [jbarefoot@MarinersMuseum.org](mailto:jbarefoot@MarinersMuseum.org). For interview requests or more information about The Mariners' Museum and Park, media should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones at [sjones@MarinersMuseum.org](mailto:sjones@MarinersMuseum.org) or (757) 591-7708.

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The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum® is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners' team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional information, visit [MarinersMuseum.org](http://MarinersMuseum.org), call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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