

Return on Investment

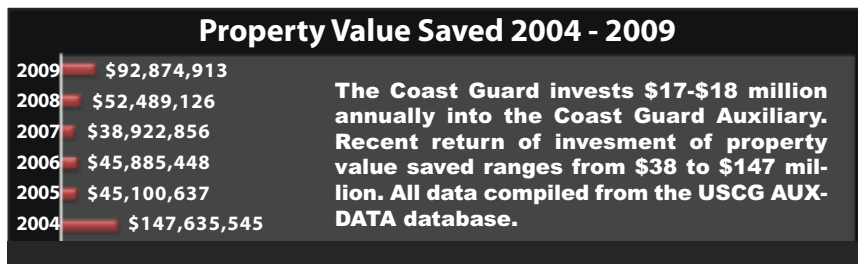
The value of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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The Coast Guard Auxiliary is made up of more than 30,000 volunteers who donate their time and effort as well as their boats, aircraft, and radio facilities to the U.S. Coast Guard. Over 4,000 vessels, 240 aircraft, and 2,600 radio facilities have been accepted for use annually to aid the Coast Guard in carrying out its many missions.

While auxiliarists maintain their own facilities (aircraft, boats, and radio facilities) and donate their time, the



Coast Guard injects approximately \$17-\$18 million annually into the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This includes funding the fuel and maintenance allowance for the use of auxiliary facilities, Coast Guard schools for auxiliary training and education, active duty and civilian staff to manage auxiliary program offices, personal protective safety equipment, and damage and disability claims associated with surface and aviation patrols.

So What Does the Coast Guard Get?

The value of volunteer time is calculated annually by an organization called the "Independent Sector,"¹ which is a leadership forum of charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs. The 2009 value of a volunteer hour: \$20.25.

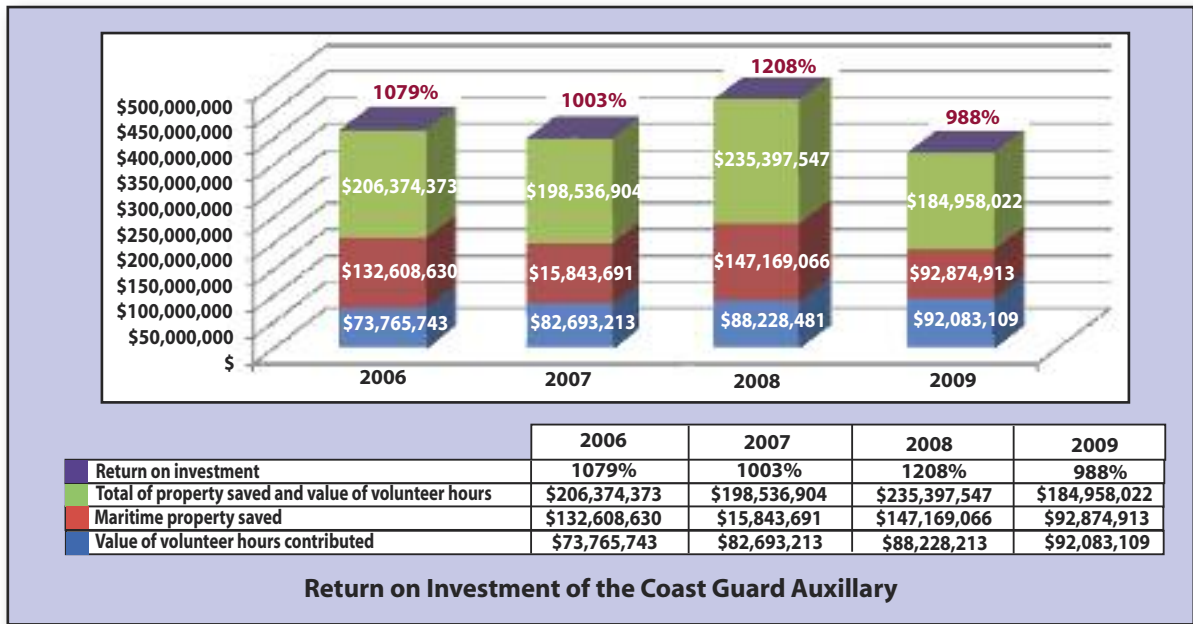
In 2009, the auxiliary provided more than 4.5 million volunteer hours² to the Coast Guard, which comes to approximately \$91 million dollars in labor, using that independent estimate. While certainly impressive, this figure doesn't take into account the amount of property or lives that were saved as result of auxiliary efforts.

Put another way, the Coast Guard Auxiliary's labor hours in 2009 are equivalent to 2,186 full-time Coast Guard employees.³

In an average year, the Coast Guard Auxiliary:

- Provides 4,500,000 volunteer hours to the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Saves 800 lives.
- Assists 13,000 people in distress.
- Protects \$92,000,000 in property.
- Conducts 132,000 vessel safety checks.
- Conducts 2,000 commercial fishing examinations.
- Conducts over 86,000 marine dealer visits.
- Provides 4,000 vessel facilities to the Coast Guard.
- Provides 240 air facilities to the Coast Guard.
- Conducts 16,600 public education sessions and teaches 2,800 boating safety courses.





The return on investment of the USCG Auxiliary is based on the addition of value of volunteer hours and maritime property saved minus the amount of annual Coast Guard investment into the CG Auxiliary (approximately \$17-18 million annually) divided by the investment. All data this page compiled from the Coast Guard's AUXDATA database.

Continuing the math and factoring in the value of property saved, the return on investment ranges from 970 percent to 1,200 percent for the years 2006 to 2009, or up to \$12 for every dollar spent.

What Do Auxiliarists Do?

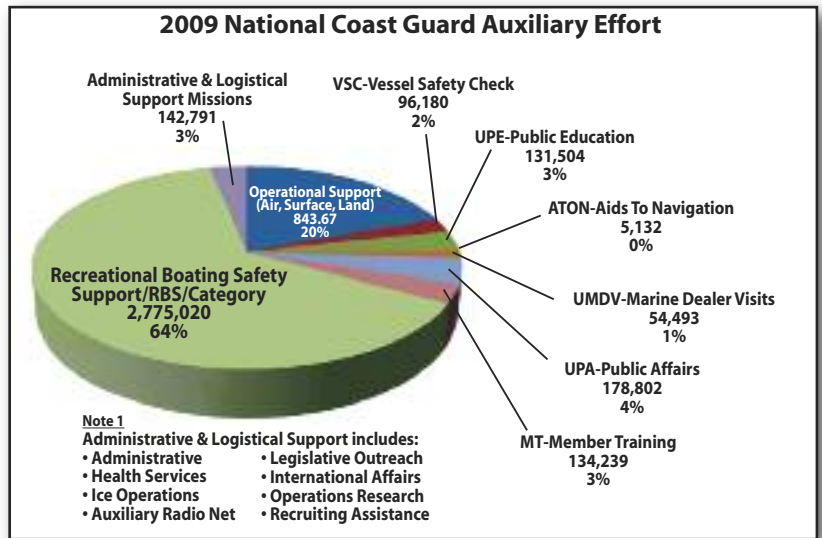
While the main mission function for the Coast Guard Auxiliary is recreational boating safety, auxiliarists perform a wide range of duties including vessel safety and commercial fishing vessel examinations, private aids to navigation verifications, program dealer visits, and marine safety education.

About the author:

CDR David Chareonsuphiphat has served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 24 years—10 as a search and rescue helicopter pilot at Air Station Barbers Point and Air Station Los Angeles. He has served as the Pacific Area operations/budget/resource manager. He currently serves as the Director of Auxiliary, District Eleven, Northern Region.

Endnotes:

- ¹ <http://www.independentsector.org/>
- ² <http://www.cgaux.org/>
- ³ In 2009 auxiliarists volunteered a total of 4,547,314 hours. One full-time equivalent is based on 2,080 hours—a full year of 40-hour weeks with no vacation.



The Coast Guard Auxiliary contributed over 4.5 million hours of effort to the USCG in 2009, valued at approximately \$91 million.

