

BILGE WATER SENSOR IS A LIVESAVER—



The USCG's 47 MLB lifeboats have Water Witch high-water sensors mounted on the ceilings of their pilothouses. (Photo USCG Chetco River Station)

DOWN
UPSIDE
WHEN
EVEN

When the Coast Guard authorized the use of several products from Water Witch, the company

that pioneered the use of electronic bilge switches and sensors, company officials were naturally excited. But mounting Water Witch water sensors on the pilothouse ceilings of 47' motorized lifeboats (47MLB) was one installation they had never seen before.

The Coast Guard's fleet of 47MLBs is notorious as a first response rescue resource in high seas, surf and heavy weather environments. Able to operate under severe conditions, the boats are self-bailing and almost unsinkable, including the ability to roll 360° and right themselves in 8 seconds or less.

Inside the pilothouse, crewmembers are firmly secured to their seats in case of a roll-over. But in the unlikely event the boat might not right itself quickly, there is always the danger that the pilothouse can flood—trapping the crewmembers inside.

To provide emergency egress under these extreme conditions, each 47MLB has a Water Witch model 23-12 High Water Sensor installed on the ceiling of the pilothouse. Normally used to activate a bilge pump, the sensor is configured to send a signal that

will blow out the pilothouse's windows, providing the crew with a quick escape route.

Besides their ease of installation and unlimited mounting options, Water Witch sensors were selected because they only activate after continuously detecting water for 3 seconds, thus avoiding false triggering. The sensors have no moving parts and are impervious to all substances and debris often found in a bilge.

Water Witch is a worldwide supplier of automatic bilge controls. Products offered include electronic bilge switches and alarms, high water sensors, bilge monitors and counters, programmable timers and alarms, hour meters and other electronic accessories.

Water Witch's 23-series High Water Sensors are available in 12VDC and 24/32VDC models. Retail price of the Model 23-12 is \$38.49.

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