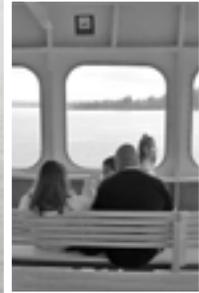


Pledge to Our Passengers

The safety of everyone who rides aboard a Washington State Ferry is the number one priority of the ferry system. Our pledge to each of you is to enhance security while at the same time attempting to minimize the impact on your day-to-day lives. Working together we will keep the ferries safe for ferry riders today and generations to come.

A Passenger's Security Guide For Washington State Ferries (WSF)

The goal of the WSF Security Plan is to keep our passengers and crew safe while meeting regulatory requirements, with minimal disruption to our customers.



Five things to remember about the new ferry system security regulations effective July 1, 2004.

Arrive early. If you are traveling by vehicle, please arrive 20 minutes prior to the departure time of your preferred sailing.

Never transport explosives or illegal fireworks.

All vehicles are **subject to security screening.**

Report suspicious activity.

Be alert - don't be afraid!

How The New Ferry System Security Regulations Will Impact You

Heightened security, a term unfamiliar in the past, has become a way of life in recent years.

Are terrorists targeting a Washington State Ferry? No one knows for sure, but it's clear that the threat is real. The federal government has indicated for some time now that our nation's transportation system is a potential target.

It should come as no surprise that here in Washington State, home of the nation's largest ferry system, a key transportation link, is also at risk.

Washington State Ferries Has A Plan to Keep You Safe

Washington State Ferries takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the safety and security of passengers and crew. To this end, WSF has been working in collaboration with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) for many months to develop and implement a security plan based on the new regulations.

In November 2002, the President of the United States signed into law the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) in an effort to improve United States' maritime security. The USCG mandated new security regulations that apply to most vessels and marine facilities in the country.

FACT: WSF operates the largest ferry system in the country, carrying over 11 million vehicles, and 25 million people each year on 24 vessels and through 20 ferry terminals. Ferries operate on 10 routes and make approximately 500 sailings every day in the Puget Sound region.

In comparison, SeaTac Airport handles 27 million passengers annually.

Our Plan

In response to the new regulations, Washington State Ferries is implementing security measures consistent with our approved security plan. As many of you have already observed, Washington State Ferries has been implementing security procedures since the events of September 11th. These include vessel security announcements; vessel security sweeps following arrival in port and car deck and passenger cabin patrols by crewmembers.

The security procedures you will encounter are based on the threat level towards the maritime industry. For example, Maritime Security Level 1 (MARSEC 1) represents normal operations with select security measures in place. At higher MARSEC levels, increased security measures will apply.

We do not anticipate that normal security measures will interfere with WSF operations and sailing schedules.

Examples of Other Security Steps Passengers Can Expect.

Passengers cannot leave the ferry once they have boarded.

The vessel captain will be contacted if a passenger asks to leave the ferry. It is up to the captain to determine if the request will be granted.

New signs on the ferries will indicate various security rules.

For example, restricted areas will be clearly marked. Passengers should stay out of restricted areas. Signs will also be posted regarding the current maritime security (MARSEC) level in effect.

Crewmembers will wear identification badges.

The badges will indicate the crewmember's name and employee identification number.

FACT: There are three levels of Maritime Security – MARSEC 1, MARSEC 2 and MARSEC 3. Maritime security levels are independent of homeland security levels and are triggered by threats specific to the maritime industry.

While there will be no airport style searches of individuals, vehicles are subject to screening.

Under the new security regulations a certain level of vehicle screening is mandated. In April, the ferry system introduced the use of Washington State Patrol (WSP) explosive detection canines to satisfy this mandate, consistent with our approved security plan.

FACT: Trained canines are a highly effective way to screen vehicles. A dog's sense of smell is believed to be 20,000 times more sensitive than a human's, which allows a dog to detect even small amounts of explosive material.

These dogs will continue to be present in the car holding lanes at ferry terminals. If the dog detects explosive materials, the vehicle will be subject to physical inspection. The dogs are trained to detect explosive materials only. The dogs may also be seen occasionally in the terminals.

The new USCG security requirements will, at times, require more vehicle screening. If that is the case, Washington State Patrol troopers will supplement the canines as needed to meet such requirements. Typical screening will include a visual inspection by a trooper of enclosed compartment areas such as a trailer, canopy, passenger or engine areas.

Vehicle screening is mandated by the new security regulations; it is a vital part of the WSF security plan approved by the Coast Guard, and is appropriate and responsible in light of today's world affairs and WSF's operations.

Anyone who refuses a request for screening will not be allowed to board the ferry.

What should passengers expect in the future?

More security procedures will be phased-in over the coming months and years. Some security hardware like surveillance cameras, additional fences and lighting and access control measures will be added over time as resources allow.

Be Alert ... Don't be Afraid

How can ferry passengers help keep the ferries safe and operating on schedule? You can be our "eyes and ears".

Be aware of your surroundings. Report suspicious persons, objects or activities to crewmembers.

- Unusual photography of ferry operations.
- People displaying heightened interest in secure areas onboard the ferries.
- Suspicious questioning of WSF personnel about security procedures.
- People taking notes or making computer entries while observing ferry operations.
- Suspicious waterside activities in and around docks and ferries.



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Contact us at a special email address concerning safety.

If you would like more information about Washington State Ferries new security plan, or if you want to report suspicious activity, please contact us at:

wsfsecurity@wsdot.wa.gov



Washington State Ferries