

# Coast Guard stops unmanned boat after operators fall out

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## VIRGINIA BEACH

Two boaters were rescued this morning from Lynnhaven Inlet after they were ejected from their 17-foot boat.

The two boaters fell overboard and were rescued by a good Samaritan at about 9:20 a.m., according to a news release from the U.S. Coast Guard. However, the boat continued to run in circles, creating a hazard to nearby boaters.

Two boats responded to the scene, a Coast Guard boat crew conducting training aboard a 25-foot response boat and a 45-foot response boat from the Coast Guard Station at Little Creek. They threw heaving lines to stop the boat's propellers, but when that didn't work, they pulled alongside the boat and used a boat hook on the throttle to stop it, the news release said.

Most boats have a kill switch to stop the engine if the driver is thrown from the vessel. The Coast Guard, in its news release, recommended that boaters use the kill switch whenever the boat is underway to prevent this same kind of situation.