



If Approached by the Law...

If you notice an officer or official trying to catch your attention, do your best to establish communications. If you avoid the officer or official, you will almost certainly draw more suspicion upon yourself than you would otherwise.

If conditions prevent you from talking to the official, call either the agency that oversees the body of water or the local police agency as soon as possible. Tell them who you are and why you are calling, and ask whether anyone wanted to speak with you. Get the full name of the person who takes your call.

Keep in mind that security officers mean well. They are charged with a nearly impossible task. Unusual activity is suspicious from a security standpoint, and most security officers will see seaplane activity as unusual. Rather than taking offense, work with these officers to build understanding and ease their anxiety.



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Security Tips

for the Seaplane Pilot



Security at sensitive sites such as dams, power plants, water treatment plants, and drinking water reservoirs has been radically transformed by September 11. For the seaplane pilot operating in the vicinity of these sites, tougher security demands new procedures and a shift in attitude.

This brochure recommends practices and procedures intended to increase the comfort level of security officials who might otherwise perceive seaplane activity as hostile.

1. Due Diligence



Before departure, review the *Water Landing Directory*, log on to SPA's web site, or call the appropriate agency to get the latest regulations applicable to your destination. And don't forget to check notams!

2. Make The Call

Unusual or unanticipated activity is cause for concern to authorities responsible for security. Even if seaplanes are permitted at your destination, if your flight will take you near a sensitive site, make a courtesy call to the agency responsible for that site. Advise them of your identity, your airplane's N-number and color, when you'll be in the area, what you'll be doing, and how to reach you if they have questions.



3. Don't Act Suspicious

Security officials are already wary of seaplanes. Don't give them additional cause for concern.

Even activities that seem routine, such as landing, taxiing for a few moments, then departing again, can bear an alarming resemblance to the delivery of toxic agents to a drinking water supply.



4. Fly Friendly

For flight training, pick destinations that aren't near sensitive sites. If that's not possible, make sure you advise the appropriate agency of your intentions well before you arrive.



Regardless of the nature of your flight, avoid low overflight or circling above dams, power plants and water treatment plants.

5. Use Your Radio



Seaplane pilots aren't known for radio communication, but even if you don't talk, at least listen. Monitoring 121.5 is always a good idea these days. Monitoring the nearest center or approach frequency is also wise. If your activity raises suspicions, officials may try to contact you through ATC. If you're listening, you may save yourself a big headache.

6. Lock It Up

It may seem like common sense, but make sure your airplane is secured against theft. Consider installing a supplementary locking system if one is available for your airplane. Also, take the time to carefully screen potential partners or additional named pilots.

