

Mr. Stroub works on a rescue team on the coast. He has been working there for years. He enjoys the work and likes the other members of the group. They all know how important their work is. Back when he was a kid in school, Mr. Stroub had worked at his town pool. One day he had to save a child from drowning. From that point on, he was **hooked** on rescue work.

The crew does not go out on a rescue each day. Some days the job is even a bit dull. The crew is happy when this happens because it means that all of the boaters are safe. However, if a storm blows in, the crew knows they will be needed soon. It is their job to rescue boats that are stranded out in the sea and get everyone back safely to shore. They also teach classes on boat safety.

Many people on the coast have boats and enjoy fishing trips or just sailing on the clear, smooth blue waters. Most of the boaters are very careful. They remember to provide a life jacket for each person on their boat and they go slowly when there are other boats around. A few boaters are foolish. They scoot across the water at top speed and dart around the other boats. They crowd too many people on their boats and ignore the rules. They stay out in stormy seas and pile too much stuff on the boat.

One cloudy afternoon, Mr. Stroub told a group that they should not take their small boat out to sea. The news was reporting that a large storm was expected soon. The driver of the boat began to argue with Mr. Stroub. Mr. Stroub was trying to explain that the strong winds would make it hard to get back in, when the boat took off and sped out to sea. Mr. Stroub just shook his head. He wished people knew that he was not trying to spoil their fun. He just wanted to keep them safe.

Shortly after the boat left the dock, thunderclouds formed in the sky and the waves began to pound the shore. Mr. Stroub frowned and looked out the window. He was hoping to see the small boat returning but there were not boats around. He told his crew that they should prepare for a rescue.

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