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DISCLOSURE

Leak in salt water supply line caused Steamship Authority cancellations



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2018

A Steamship Authority ferry from Woods Hole to Martha's Vineyard.

By [Travis Andersen](#)

GLOBE STAFF AUGUST 30, 2018

Wednesday's two trip [cancellations](#) on the Steamship Authority were caused by a leak in a saltwater supply line discovered on a ferry during a weekly drill, according to a spokesman.

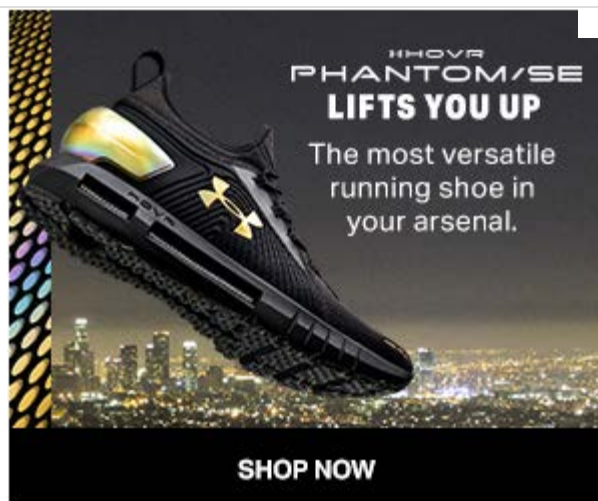
The Hyannis-to-Nantucket trip at 11 a.m. and the Nantucket-to-Hyannis trip at 12:30 p.m. were canceled, said Steamship spokesman Sean F. Driscoll in an e-mail.

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“While performing a weekly drill of the fire suppression system on the M/V Iyanough, a leak in the salt water supply line was detected,” Driscoll said. “As a result, the 11 a.m. departure from Hyannis and the 12:30 p.m. departure from Nantucket were canceled to allow maintenance to address the situation. The issue was a leaking fitting on a pipe; temporary repairs were done in the afternoon and the 2 p.m. departure was allowed to sail. Permanent repairs were done overnight and the boat’s 8:15 departure from Hyannis left as scheduled.”

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Wednesday’s leak was the latest setback for the authority’s fleet.

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From the beginning of the year through April, the agency canceled some 550 ferry trips — about 15 times its yearly average.

It also canceled trips May 23, when a ferry’s engine lost power. Then, on June 27 and 28, trips on the

Island Home vessel were canceled after an emergency generator first failed to activate during a routine test and then malfunctioned again the next day. More trips for the Woods Hole ferry were [axed](#) last month.

And on Aug. 6, in an [alert](#) sent just after 6:50 a.m., the authority said the 6:45 a.m. M/V SANKATY Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven trip and the 10:15 a.m. M/V SANKATY Vineyard Haven to Woods Hole voyage had both been canceled because of mechanical issues.

The headaches haven't been limited to seafaring vessels.

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In July, an authority bus on its way to pick up passengers in Falmouth burst into flames, destroying the bus and damaging more than a dozen vehicles.

The authority bills itself on its website as “the largest ferry service to the Islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket from Cape Cod.”

The site says the authority offers “the lowest fares and the most frequent daily departures for passengers, automobiles, groups and trucks. . . . Since 1960, we have been the lifeline to the Islands year-round. Our U.S. Coast Guard-certified crews are committed to the highest level of safety at sea. We are also dedicated to making your trip both comfortable and convenient with spacious seating, snack bars with beverages including beer, wine and mixed drinks and free Wi-Fi and TV on-board.”

Matt Rocheleau of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Travis Andersen can be reached at travis.andersen@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@TAGlobe](#).

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