



## **FIVE TOP TIPS FOR BOATING SAFETY**

*Provided by the National Safe Boating Council*

**These five simple steps will dramatically reduce your chances of being hurt or killed in a boating accident.**

### **#1. WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!**

Most people who are killed while pleasure boating drown—and most people who drown are not wearing a life jacket. When you capsize, collide, or fall overboard, there is rarely time to get to a stowed life jacket. Modern life jackets are smaller and more comfortable making it easier than ever to "Wear It!" at all times.

### **#2. STAY SOBER IN YOUR BOAT!**

An operator with a blood alcohol content above .10—(equivalent to consuming 5 beers in one hour for the average 180-lb. male)—is ten times more likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol. Stressors such as sun, vibration, noise, and other environmental elements affect the body more when you consume alcohol. Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal in all states and violation of Federal law.

### **#3. TAKE A SAFE BOATING COURSE!**

Seventy percent of recreational boating accidents are caused by factors that are controlled by the boat's operator—such as failure to pay attention, carelessness, recklessness, inexperience, excessive speed, and failure to watch for hazards. Boating safety courses are available, inexpensive, and quick—a great way for you to learn safety and the rules of the road.

### **#4. GET YOUR BOAT CHECKED!**

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons® offer a free Vessel Safety Check (VSC). Contact [www.vesselsafetycheck.org](http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org) for information.

## **#5. BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE!**

All boat engines produce Carbon Monoxide (CO)—an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas that can kill you in a matter of minutes. Boaters are killed every year because of improper cabin ventilation, poorly maintained equipment, and careless behavior. You do not have to be inside the boat to be at risk. Boaters have died from exposure on the swim platforms of their boats and in other areas where CO exhaust may accumulate or be emitted. Be aware of the early symptoms (irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness), and use CO detectors on your boat.

***BOAT SMART. BOAT SAFE. WEAR IT!***

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