

# BOATING SAFETY TIPS



## BE WEATHER-WISE

- Check local weather conditions before departure
- Get off the water if you notice darkening clouds, changing winds or sudden temperature drops

## FOLLOW A PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

- Boating safety rules
- Proper equipment

## USE COMMON SENSE

- Operate at a safe speed, especially on crowded waters
- Pay attention to buoys and other navigational aids
- Be alert
- No BUI

## DESIGNATE AN ASSISTANT CAPTAIN

- Ensure another person on board can take the helm and return to shore if you become incapacitated

## WEAR A LIFEJACKET & LEARN TO SWIM

- Fit and assign a lifejacket to each passenger prior to launch
- Check with local pools or organizations such as the YMCA or American Red Cross for lessons

## DEVELOP A FLOAT PLAN

- Always let someone on shore know your boating plan that include:
  - Name, address and phone number of captain and passengers
  - Vessel Information: size, type, color, engine, etc.
  - Trip itinerary
  - Type of communication and signal equipment on board

## TAKE A BOATING SAFETY COURSE

- Boating education requirements vary by state, but regardless of your state's regulations, it's smart to be educated on the rules of the waterways.

## SCHEDULE A VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

- The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Power Squadrons offer free vessel safety checks to verify presence and conditions of safety equipment, check out your boat and make safety recommendations.

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