



# Boating Safety Tips

## BE WEATHER-WISE

- ◇ Check local weather conditions before departure
- ◇ Play it safe and get off the water if you notice darkening clouds, rough, changing winds or sudden temperature drops.

## FOLLOW A PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Ensure you'll be ready for any on-water emergency

- ◇ Boating safety rules
  - Proper equipment

## USE COMMON SENSE

- ◇ Operate at a safe speed, especially on
- ◇ crowded waters
- ◇ Be alert
- ◇ Steer clear of large vessels
- ◇ Pay attention to buoys and other navigational aids

## DESIGNATE AN ASSISTANT SKIPPER

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

## WEAR LIFEJACKETS

- ◇ Fit and assign a lifejacket to each passenger prior to launch

## GOING OFFSHORE- DEVELOPING A FLOAT PLAN

- ◇ Always let someone on shore know your boating plans. Include:
  - Name, address, and phone number of trip leader and passengers
  - Boat type and registration
  - Trip itinerary
  - Type of communication and signal equipment on board

## BOATING SAFETY RESOURCES

### ◇ **SafeBoatingCampaign.com**

A program of the National Safe Boating Council. Promoting boating and life jacket safety to boaters everywhere.

- Always wear a life jacket while boating
- Take the Safe Boating Pledge and promise to boat responsibly [safeboatingcampaign.com](http://safeboatingcampaign.com)
- Learn which life jacket style is best for different boating activities: [safeboatingcampaign.com/life-jackets](http://safeboatingcampaign.com/life-jackets)
- ◇ **Boat-ed.com** Official boating safety courses and online tests for your boat license
- ◇ **US Power Squadrons ([usps.org](http://usps.org)) and Coast Guard Auxiliaries ([cgaux.org](http://cgaux.org))** Free vessel safety checks, boater education and safety boating tips
- ◇ **[discoverboating.com/beginner/courses.aspx](http://discoverboating.com/beginner/courses.aspx)** Water and boating safety resources

Content courtesy of BoatSafe.com

