

Staying Safe

A Program of the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and...



Safe Sober



Wisconsin Department of Transportation



Boating Safety

Boating can be an enjoyable pastime. It also can be dangerous. Reducing the risk is the key to an enjoyable boating season for all.

To prepare yourself, please follow the safety tips:

EDUCATE YOURSELF: Take boating safety courses. Nearly 90% of all boating fatalities occur on boats where the operator had not completed a boating safety course.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET: Recently life jacket manufacturers have improved their designs. Inflatable life jackets offer another option to the traditional, bulky style.

STAY SOBER: A boat operator with a blood alcohol concentration above 0.10 is more than 10 times as likely to be killed in a boating accident.

PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (PWC)

- Enjoy your PWC during the day. PWC use from dusk 'til dawn is illegal in Wisconsin.
- Wear a personal flotation device at all times.
- A lanyard clip must be attached to the person operating the PWC. If the operator is thrown from the PWC, the rope from the clip will shut off the gas.
- All persons over the age of 12 and under the age of 16 must possess a valid boating safety student certificate to operate a PWC.
- Refrain from horseplay while operating a PWC. It is illegal and not safe to operate a PWC facing backwards.



SAFETY TIPS

PLAN – File a float plan. Let a friend or relative know when you are leaving, description of your boat, how many people will be on board, where you will be boating and what time you will return.

CHARTS – Carry current charts on board of where you will be boating.

ALCOHOL EFFECTS – Keep in mind that the sun, the heat and motion of the water enhances the effects of alcohol.

FORECAST – Check the local forecast before going out.

RULES – Know the rules of the waterway and abide by them.

BOATING REQUIREMENTS

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES – It is unlawful to operate any boat unless one of the following PFD's of the proper size is available for each person on board:
Type I, II & III – Wearable type PFD. Type V – Wearable type PFD that must be worn to be legal when boat is underway.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS – Fire Extinguishers are required on all boats of closed construction.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS – Boats underway between sunset and sunrise are required to have operational navigational lights.

BILGE VENTILATOR – It is unlawful to operate a boat, except those of open construction, using a liquid volatile fuel unless equipped with an efficient natural or mechanical bilge ventilator.

VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS – Three signals are required on board boats over 16' in length on Federal Waterways. Boats under 16' in length are exempt from this if they are operated during daylight hours only.

