



Your **LIFE JACKET** is a lifesaver, but **only** if you wear it!

- Nationwide, more than 800 people lose their lives in boating accidents each year.
- An average 11,000 boating accidents occur every year.
- More than 4,500 people are injured every year in boating accidents
- Boating related fatalities now rank second only to car crashes in transportation-related deaths in the United States.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 of these victims were not wearing a life jacket.
- Alcohol is involved in over 50% of all drowning and boating accidents.
- A boat operator with a blood alcohol content above 0.10 is 10 times more likely to be killed in a boating accident than a boater with a zero blood alcohol content.
- **Most drownings occur within 10 feet of safety!!**

Don't become another statistic!

Water Safety Websites

The following websites contain additional information on water safety and boating regulations:

<http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>

<http://www.USCGBBoating.org/>

<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/>

<http://www.mswp.state.mo.us/>

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/boating/boating.html>

<http://www.state.ia.us/dnr/organiza/fwb/enforcmt/safe-ed.htm>

<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/>

http://www.keredcross.org/core_services/swim_safe.html

<http://www.redcross.org/hss/safety/water.html>

<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/>

<http://www.cgauz.org/cgauzweb/public/pubframe.htm>

Water Safety Phone Numbers

To obtain a copy of the boating laws and regulations for your state, please call:

Missouri Water Patrol 573-751-3333

Nebraska Game and Parks 402-471-0641

Iowa Department of Natural Resources 515-281-8652

Kansas Wildlife and Parks 316-672-5911



US Army Corps of Engineers®



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LIFE JACKETS

keep them on

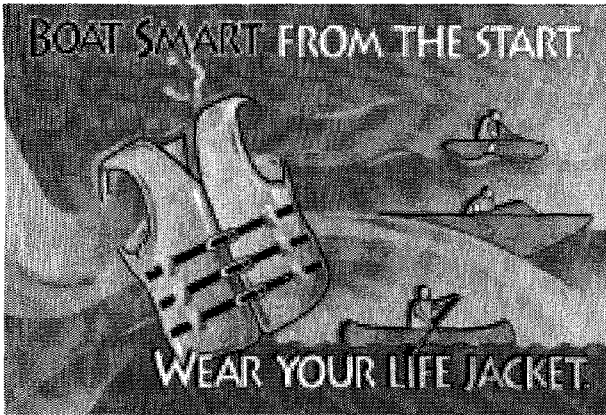


*Your Safety
Our Concern*

Safety Inspections

State law enforcement officers may conduct a safety inspection to determine compliance with state boating laws. State boating laws vary slightly, and boaters should familiarize themselves with the regulations for the state they are in. Failure to have the required equipment can result in a fine. A typical safety inspection will involve checking for the following items.

- Properly displayed registration numbers to determine if registration is current.
- Personal flotation devices are checked for number, accessibility, serviceability, proper size and type. Children are required to wear a personal flotation device while on board (Age differs according to state).



- Sounding devices are checked for operability. Bells are required for large boats.
- Fire extinguishers are checked for proper type, size and adequate charge.
- Ventilation systems are checked for functional operation.

- Mufflers are checked to determine compliance with sound level requirements.
- Marine toilets are checked for proper storage of waste materials.
- In some states, outboard motors are checked for the registration or serial number.
- Navigation lights are checked.



Boat Operation

Every boat operator has the responsibility to comply with state boating law. Failure to do so is considered operator negligence and may result in arrest or fine. Before you go boating or take part in any water related activity you will need to check the state laws.

- All states have a minimum age to operate a motorboat. Parents and guardians are legally responsible for the underage operator.
- All boats manufactured after 1970 have a maximum capacity plate mounted in a position which is readily visible to the operator. Failure to comply with the maximum capacity rating will decrease stability and may result in an accident.
- No person may operate a boat while intoxicated or under the influence of any drug.
- No person may operate a boat in a reckless or negligent manner.



Booze & Boats Don't Mix

- No operator will allow persons to ride or sit on bow or gunwales (outside the passenger area).
- Because of their extensive involvement in boating accidents, personal watercraft have additional restrictions. The key to safe operation of a personal water craft is appropriate operating speed and distance from other boats or docks. Check your State regulations for "idle speed" requirements. All personal water craft operators and passengers must wear a personal floatation device.