

Boating Tips and Rules

BOATING RULES

To make sure that your boating trip is as safe as possible, you should—

- Always file a float plan.
- Go out only in a boat that meets the safety requirements of the area.
- Learn how to maneuver the boat by taking lessons from a qualified instructor.
- Familiarize yourself with the water .
- Inspect the safety equipment, boat, motor, and personal flotation devices (PFD`s) to be sure all are in good repair.
- Check local weather reports, and obey storm warnings.
- Always wear your PFD.
- Know how to swim.
- Never mix drinking alcohol with boating
- Never boat near a dam.
- Make sure you and your friends don`t overload the boat.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

There are federal and state requirements for boating equipment. Check the specific requirements for the type of boat you will be operating. You should not stop at the minimum requirements for equipment. Here is a list of equipment to guide you:

- PFD for each person.
- Whistle, horn, or bell
- Fire extinguisher
- Visual distress signals (flares, flags, lights)
- Running lights
- Anchor
- Oars or paddle
- Extra line
- Throw-rope bag or throwable rescue device
- First aid kit
- Bailing device
- Flashlight
- Tool kit and spare parts
- Nautical charts and maps
- Compass
- Radio