

BOAT RESPONSIBLY:

Never boat under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication. Alcohol is the leading contributor in over 16% of all recreational boating fatalities.

Wear your life jacket while boating — and — make sure it fits properly.

Take a boating safety course and learn the “Rules of the Road.” 80% of all reported fatalities (where instruction was known) occur in accidents where the operator has not received boating safety education.



National Association of
State Boating Law Administrators

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1 OF EVERY 2 ACCIDENTS INJURIES & FATALITIES IS CAUSED BY IGNORING THE BIG 3



DON'T BE THE 1

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and marine law enforcement officers across the country want you to be aware of three major contributors to accidents injuries and fatalities on the water.

Wear Your Life Jacket



Twenty-two children under age 13 lost their lives while boating in 2013. Make sure every child wears a life jacket and that it fits properly.

Parents - be the role model for your child and wear your life jacket, too. Do it for your family. So many deaths in 2013 could have been prevented – if only they had worn a life jacket, these loved ones would still be around today.

Over 3/4 of all fatal boating accident victims drowned (where cause of death is known), and of those, 84% were reported as not wearing a life jacket. Don't make Law Enforcement have to tell your family you will not be coming home again. A Life Jacket...the cheapest life insurance policy you can buy!

Obey and Follow Navigation Rules

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Even though there are no yellow lines on the water, there are still “**rules of the road**” you must follow. You are the Captain of your vessel, not the source of entertainment...

- Always keep a proper lookout
- Don't be a distracted driver
- Always maintain a safe speed for the conditions
- Know if you are the stand-on or give-way vessel in every situation
- Courtesy can take you a long way on the water



Don't Drink and Boat

Alcohol was the leading contributing factor in all recreational boating fatalities.

Many states have gotten tougher in enforcing laws against this high risk behavior. Operating a vessel with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 is against federal law.

It's not just your life on the line.....it only takes “a couple” of drinks to change your life forever. (In estimating impairment if you weigh 180 lbs, after just 4 alcoholic drinks you could be over the legal BAC limit and subject to arrest and prosecution). Relax and enjoy the water, don't make this your last trip by drinking.