



## Fact Sheet

### SPRING ABOARD

March 17 – 23, 2019

#### ***About Spring Aboard:***

- The 2019 Spring Aboard campaign is taking place **March 17 – 23, 2019**.
- The annual Spring Aboard campaign informs and motivates boaters to prepare for the boating season by providing information on how to enroll in a boating knowledge or skills based education course.
- Spring Aboard is coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard as well as participating partners.
- Forty-nine (49) states and U.S. territories require proof of completion of a boating education course for operators of some powered vessels.
- Spring Aboard was launched in 2015 by NASBLA in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, with hopes to get boaters educated in boating safety *before* the boating season begins.

#### ***About Boater Education:***

- U.S. Coast Guard 2017 data reveal that where instruction was known, 81% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction.\*
- Only 14% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.\*
- Boating education is about more than avoiding accidents. Educated boaters are more confident boaters and they are able to enjoy the boating experience much more.
- Many states require completion of a course verified by NASBLA as meeting the national boating education standard for powerboat rental or operation. To ensure a course qualifies, look for the 'NASBLA-Approved' logo.



### ***Other Boating Safety Facts:***

- 84.5% of people who drowned in a recreational boating accident were not wearing a life jacket.\*
- In 2017, there were 4,291 accidents that involved 658 deaths, 2,629 injuries and approximately \$46 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.\*
- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 19% of deaths.\*
- Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, machinery failure, and alcohol use rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.\*
- In 2017, there were 11,961,568 recreational vessels registered in the United States.\*
- Alcohol can impair a boater's judgment, balance, vision, and reaction time. It can also increase fatigue and susceptibility to the effects of cold-water immersion.

\*Source: U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics 2017

