



# Boating Safety



The marine environment provides many of the same hazards faced on land, along with some unique dangers that require you to take special precautions.

## Fire Prevention

Have a working smoke alarm and escape plan—test alarms monthly.

Have a U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher on board and know how to use it.

To prevent being trapped, mount the extinguisher near an exit, so you are moving towards it as you access it.

## Fire Hazards

Use UL marine approved cordsets and connections. Dispose of oily rags in a metal container with a tight fitting lid.

- Fuel portable tanks on the dock, not on your vessel.
- Gas vapors will accumulate in low spots—before fueling, close all hatches, compartments and covers. After fueling, open everything up and ventilate.
- Never leave operating electrical equipment, including heaters, unattended.

## Life jacket, life-vest, PFD or personal flotation device.

- State law requires PFDs for each person aboard a vessel in state waters. It won't work if you don't wear it.
- Don't take chances, wear your PFD





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## What you can't see or smell, can hurt you.

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fuel. Sources on your boat may include engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, BBQs, space and water heaters.
- Early symptoms of CO poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea and dizziness.
- CO poisoning can kill you.
- Know the sources, understand the symptoms and have a working CO alarm.

## How can CO accumulate?



Inadequately ventilated enclosures or enclosed spaces

Another vessel's exhaust



Slow speeds, idling or stopped

Blocked exhaust outlets



Where can CO accumulate? Anywhere.

## Electric Shock Drowning (ESD)

- ESD is the result of low level alternating current (AC) passing through the body with enough force to cause skeletal muscular paralysis.
- ESD can occur in any location where electricity is provided near water, but the majority of ESD deaths have occurred around public and private marinas and docks.

## Stay Safe!

- Never swim in or near marinas, docks or boatyards.
- Stay away from fishing lines
- Be Aware of Divers
- Have your boat inspected by a certified electrician.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter protection.
- The Sun – wear protective lotion and sunglasses
- Alcohol/Drugs and Boating DO NOT Mix, 50% of boating accidents involve alcohol!



*Boating Under the Influence*

**15%** of recreational boating deaths involve alcohol

**&**

**1/2** of boating crashes involve drugs or alcohol

Source: U.S. Coast Guard [scramsystems.com/summertime](http://scramsystems.com/summertime)

