

5 Things You Can Do To Have a Safe and Enjoyable Boating Season

1. Wear your Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or lifejacket. Regulations require that you carry a properly fitting PFD or lifejacket that is Canadian approved and in good condition for every person on board. They only work when you wear them and usually by the time you need them it is too late to even find them and then struggle to put them on. In over 80% of boating related drowning people were not wearing their PFD.
2. Don't Drink and Boat! Now you could lose your driver's license. Over 40% of all boating fatalities involve alcohol.
3. Everyone who operates a powered recreational vessel requires proof of operator competency. Don't get caught without it. Get proper training, take a course and get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC).
4. Don't boat in poor weather. Water conditions can change very quickly, especially on large shallow lakes like Rice Lake and Lake Simcoe. Check weather reports before you leave shore and return to shore as soon as good conditions begin to change.
5. Get a Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check (PCCC) and ensure that you have the proper safety equipment on board, it is accessible and it is in good operating condition.

Required Equipment	Canoes, Kayaks, Row Boats	Personal Water Craft (PWCs)	Powered up to 6 meters in length	Powered over 6 up to 9 meters in length
One Canadian approved PFD or Lifejacket for every person on board	✓	✓	✓	✓
At least 15 meters of buoyant heaving line	✓	✓	✓	✓
A manual propelling device or anchor with at least 15 meters of line		✓	✓	✓
A watertight flashlight (don't forget the batteries) or 3 approved flares of type A, B or C		✓	✓	✓
Plus 6 approved flares of type A,B or C				✓
A sound signalling device	✓	✓	✓	✓
Navigation lights if operated at night or periods of poor visibility	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magnetic compass unless operating in sight of navigation marks			✓	✓
Bailer or manual water pump with sufficient hose to reach overboard	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exempt if everyone is wearing their PFD		✓		
One class 5BC fire extinguisher if equipped with an inboard engine, fixed fuel tank or fuel burning appliance		✓	✓	✓
Exempt if everyone is wearing their PFD		✓		
Plus one 5BC fire extinguisher if there is a fuel burning appliance				✓
Reboarding device if climbing distance is over 0.5 meters				✓

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