



## 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



For more information on Fire Safety click here

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# Boating Safety



## 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)

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