



NAUTICAL NOTES

OCTOBER 2008

Let's face it. Boating can be scary if you don't stay safe. Stick to these NBOA safety tips and leave the boating horror stories to the movies...

Wear a Life Jacket

Most boaters find life jackets to be uncomfortable, debilitating, and just plain awkward. It may seem like a good choice at the time, but choosing to boat without a pfd is a deadly mistake. According to the most recent U.S. Coast Guard statistics, two-thirds of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and 90 percent of those victims weren't wearing a life jacket. With the variety of pfd styles available today, there should be no excuses.

Wear The Engine Cutoff Lanyard

Boats of a given size are required by law to come equipped with an automatic engine cutoff switch and a lanyard that attaches to the driver. If the driver is forced out of the helm seat by an impact or sudden health problem, the lanyard will detach from the helm and stop the engine. Get in the habit of attaching it to your life jacket or belt every time you operate the boat.

Establish And Enforce No-Seating Zones

Many falls overboard occur because of passengers sitting or standing in unsafe areas while the boat is underway. Passengers laying on the sunlounge over the engine compartment, for instance, can be tossed into the water if an unexpected wave is encountered. Never allow passengers to sit with their legs over the bow, hang on the side of the boat, or on the swim platform while underway. An easy rule of thumb: if it's not a seat, don't sit there!

Think, Then Throttle

It's the driver's responsibility to ensure the safety of his passengers. Injuries and falls overboard are commonly caused by the driver accelerating the boat without alerting passengers beforehand. If a passenger happens to be standing when you throttle the boat, it's likely he won't be a second later. So be sure to make your intentions known before getting underway.

File A Float Plan

Unexpected things happen, even when you're prepared. Mechanical failures, sudden storms and a host of other woes can befall you anytime, leaving you in need of help. It's always advisable to let others ashore know when and where you plan on boating. This is especially true if you venture offshore. If something goes wrong, it's comforting to know help has a good idea of where you will be instead of having to search an entire body of water.

Be Weather-Wise

Many Coast Guard rescues involve boaters in trouble as a result of bad weather. A prudent boater will always take weather forecasts into consideration. Wind, waves, lightning and heavy fog can create all sorts of problems to a boater caught unaware. Too many boaters wait until inclement weather arrives before seeking shelter. So plan ahead and avoid stormy seas whenever possible.

NBOA EVENTS

Oct. 16 - 19

US Powerboat Show,
Annapolis, MD

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3

Ft. Lauderdale
International
Boat Show,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Protect Yourself Against Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Unlike gasoline, carbon monoxide is odorless, but it's just as deadly. Keep sleeping quarters well-ventilated, and be sure you have a working carbon monoxide alarm system. Never use charcoal in enclosed areas for heat or cooking, and don't engage in "watersports" that put you near the transom when the engine is running. "Teak surfing" for instance, has been outlawed due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Avoid Boating Under The Influence

Studies have shown that natural on-water effects like exposure to sun, glare, wind, noise, vibration and motion produce a sort of "boater's hypnosis" or level of fatigue. Add alcohol to the mix, and you have one dangerous cocktail. Alcohol consumption is said to contribute to nearly 20 percent of all reported fatalities. Use a designated driver just as you would on the road. If you insist on drinking and boating, just be sure to do it in moderation; allow time between drinking and operating your boat and try to drink plenty of water.

Watch Your Speed

Just as speeding in an automobile increases the likelihood of an accident, so it is with boats. But because boats are traveling over an unstable surface, the risk of an accident is increased. Reaction times at high speeds are reduced and there aren't any breaks to help soften an oncoming blow. Even if you feel confident in your boat's handling ability, be extra alert to wakes and floating debris.

Stay Away From The Propeller

The average three-blade propeller spinning at 3200 RPM can inflict 160 impacts in one second and travel from head to toe in less than one tenth of a second. Never use the drive unit to board a boat! If your boat doesn't have a ladder, get one. The driver should know to shut the motor off when people are swimming and when skiers are getting back in the boat. Numerous aftermarket propeller safety devices are available to reduce the risk of propeller injury.



Sea Ray celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Ft. Worth Texas. Dealers from all over the world gathered to celebrate and NBOA was there to help. In congruence with

Sea Ray's 50 years of manufacturing boats, NBOA celebrated its 10th year of partnership with Sea Ray. "It's been a pleasure," says Jeffrey Berndt NBOA VP. Over the years NBOA has created programs specifically for Sea Ray and helped add to their Owners Club benefits. In Texas, NBOA reps met with Sea Ray Dealers and got a chance to build relationships for their future customers. "It's important to educate dealers on marine insurance," says Berndt, "because in today's market, a ridiculous premium means the difference between putting a new boat on the water or not." Thankfully dealers who recommend NBOA don't have to worry about that!

BOATS.COM OFFERS SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO NBOA MEMBERS

Boats.com is now offering a 20% discount to NBOA members planning to sell their pre-loved boat. With over 170,000 boats for sale by dealers, brokers and private parties, Boats.com is the internet's premier marketplace for buying and selling a boat.

With advertising packages starting as low as \$45/month there's no better time to give your boat the attention it deserves. To get started selling your boat and to receive this valuable discount, please click here!

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