

# 2017 National Safe Boating Week



**MAY 20**

## What should I do before going boating?

Take a safe boating course



Get a vessel safety check



**MAY 24**

## How will weather impact my boating plans?

Weather forecasts are essential for making safe boating decisions. Check the National Weather Service for the latest forecast before leaving shore and carefully observe changing weather. Learn more at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).



Thunder and lightning

Storm surges



Heavy winds



Extreme heat or UV Rays  
(remember your sunscreen!)

Cold water boating



**MAY 21**

## What do I need?

### Essentials

- Life jackets
- Visual distress signals
- Sound producing devices
- Locator device (EPIRB or PLB)
- Fire extinguishers
- Navigation lights
- Water to stay hydrated
- Correct permits & decals
- Free vessel safety check
- File a float plan

**MAY 25**

## How does the environment affect boaters?

Environmental stressors may weaken your body and mind enough to make the risk of an accident much greater.

Overexposure to the sun causes fatigue

Sun glare

Noise of the water, wind, and vessel



Motion of the vessel

Dehydration

Alcohol and drug consumption are more hazardous on water

**MAY 22**

## Which life jacket is right for me and my family?

Select the right style life jacket for your boating activity.

- Read the label for U.S. Coast Guard approval
- Insure snug fit and fasten
- Select it for wearability



**MAY 26**

## What are important reminders for recreational boaters?

- Maintain awareness of your surroundings at all times (what you see and hear)
- Travel at a safe speed for environment conditions



As a boater, you have a responsibility to all boaters - and all others who enjoy the water - to be safe, courteous and respectful.



Learn more at [www.boatcourse.com](http://www.boatcourse.com).

**MAY 23**

## What's the danger of BUI?

Federal law prohibits boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI) on ALL boats. BUI is involved in 1/3 of all recreational boating fatalities.



- Impact of cognitive ability
- Judgment Impaired
- Difficulty with balance
- Lack of coordination
- Slow reaction time
- Decreased vision



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

facebook.com/SafeBoatCampaign twitter.com/BoatingCampaign

[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)

Reference to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Coast Guard.