

Boating Safety

A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD SAFETY...

Drownings account for 70% of all boating fatalities. 90% of those who drown were not wearing a life jacket.

- Always wear a life jacket while in or around the water.
- Learn and follow Washington State boating laws.
- Take a boating safety course before operating a boat or other motorized vessel.
- Do not allow kids to operate any type of personal watercraft, such as a Jet Ski.
- Stay clear of other boats and objects in the water.
- Never drink alcoholic beverages while boating.
- Know the carbon monoxide (CO₂) dangers associated with boating.
- The US Coast Guard does not recommend taking infants under 18 pounds aboard a recreational boat.



BOATING

"Boating" refers to: speed boats, Jet Skis, canoes, kayaks, etc.

Drowning is a leading cause of injury death for Washington children.

MultiCare 
Mary Bridge Center for Childhood Safety

For more information, visit: www.multicare.org/childhoodsafety
253.403.1234

Washington State Boating Laws

- Mandatory Boating Safety Education law requires boaters 12 years of age and older to pass a boating safety exam before operating any powerboat or personal watercraft (i.e Jet-Ski) of 15 horsepower or greater on Washington waterways.
- Children up to age 12 must wear a USCG approved life jacket when on a vessel less than 19 feet in length.
- All vessels (including canoes and kayaks) must have at least one USCG approved Type I, II or III life jacket (PFD) for each person on board. All life jackets must be in good serviceable condition, readily accessible, and the proper size for the intended wearer.
- Each person on board a personal watercraft and anyone being towed behind a vessel must wear a Type I, II or III USCG approved life jacket.



CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon Monoxide (CO) can collect within, alongside, or behind a boat – especially while idling. CO is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. Sources of CO on your boat include engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, and space and water heaters.

- CO symptoms are similar to seasickness or intoxication. Symptoms include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness.
- Never sit on the back deck (swim platform) and teak surf, drag, boogie board, wake surf, or any activity that puts you within 20 feet of a boat while the engine is running.



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