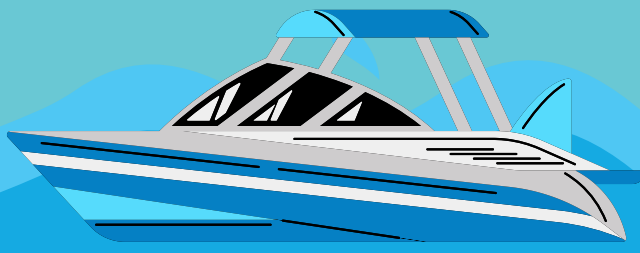


10 BOATING SAFETY

TIPS:



WEAR A LIFE JACKET:

ALWAYS WEAR PROPERLY FITTING AND U.S. COAST GUARD-APPROVED LIFE JACKETS. ENSURE THAT THERE IS A LIFE JACKET AVAILABLE FOR EVERY PASSENGER ON BOARD, AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO WEAR THEM AT ALL TIMES.



CHECK WEATHER CONDITIONS:

BEFORE HEADING OUT, CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST AND BE AWARE OF ANY POTENTIAL STORMS OR ADVERSE CONDITIONS. AVOID BOATING IN INCLEMENT WEATHER, ESPECIALLY IF STRONG WINDS OR STORMS ARE PREDICTED.



FILE A FLOAT PLAN:

INFORM SOMEONE ON THE LAND ABOUT YOUR BOATING PLANS, INCLUDING YOUR DESTINATION, EXPECTED RETURN TIME, AND THE ROUTE YOU PLAN TO TAKE. THIS ENSURES THAT SOMEONE IS AWARE OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.



BE MINDFUL OF BOAT CAPACITY:

ADHERE TO THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AND WEIGHT CAPACITY ON YOUR BOAT. OVERLOADING CAN COMPROMISE STABILITY AND INCREASE THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS.



AVOID ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS. STAY SOBER WHILE OPERATING A BOAT AND DISCOURAGE PASSENGERS FROM CONSUMING ALCOHOL EXCESSIVELY.



MAINTAIN AND CHECK EQUIPMENT:

REGULARLY INSPECT YOUR BOAT, INCLUDING THE ENGINE, NAVIGATION LIGHTS, AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT. ENSURE THAT ALL ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT IS IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION BEFORE SETTING OUT ON THE WATER.



LEARN NAVIGATION RULES:

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH AND FOLLOW NAVIGATION RULES TO PREVENT COLLISIONS ON THE WATER. UNDERSTAND THE MEANINGS OF BUOYS, MARKERS, AND OTHER NAVIGATIONAL AIDS.



STAY ALERT AND AVOID DISTRACTIONS:



KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR OTHER VESSELS, SWIMMERS, AND OBSTACLES ON THE WATER. AVOID DISTRACTIONS, SUCH AS USING A MOBILE PHONE, WHILE OPERATING THE BOAT.

TAKE A BOATING SAFETY COURSE:

CONSIDER TAKING A BOATING SAFETY COURSE TO ENHANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BOATING RULES, EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, AND NAVIGATION SKILLS. MANY COURSES ARE AVAILABLE BOTH ONLINE AND IN-PERSON.



USE ENGINE CUT-OFF DEVICES:

INSTALL AND USE ENGINE CUT-OFF DEVICES, SUCH AS KILL SWITCHES OR LANYARDS, TO STOP THE ENGINE IN CASE THE OPERATOR IS UNEXPECTEDLY THROWN FROM THE BOAT. THIS CAN PREVENT ACCIDENTS WHERE THE BOAT CONTINUES TO OPERATE WITH NO ONE IN CONTROL.



ADHERING TO THESE BOATING SAFETY TIPS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS AND ENSURE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE BOATING EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE ON BOARD.

