

NEWS

Oregon State Marine Board
Oregon's Recreational Boating Agency



PO Box 14145 Salem, OR 97309-5065

Media Contacts: Ashley Massey

www.boatoregon.com/News/index.html

www.boatoregon.com

Phone: (503) 378-2623

Fax: (503) 378-4597

435 Commercial St. N.E., Salem, OR 97309

www.twitter.com/marineboard

www.facebook.com/boatoregon

For Immediate Release

Date: Monday, May 16, 2011

Safe Boating Tips

Always wear your life jacket

According to Coast Guard statistics, in 2009, 736 boaters died in boating-related accidents and 84% of the victims were not wearing life jackets, or personal flotation devices (PFDs). Those lives could have been saved if the victims had worn one.



Know the rules of the waterway

Operator inattention, operator inexperience, excessive speed, improper lookout and alcohol rank as the top five primary contributing factors in boating accidents. The most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents nationwide, were open motorboats (46%), personal watercraft (22%), and cabin motorboats (14%). Taking a safe boating course is an inexpensive, yet valuable way to become a safe boater. Most Insurance companies also offer a 15 percent discount to boaters who have a boater education card.

Boat sober

Alcohol's effects on judgment, vision, balance and coordination are amplified on the water, increasing the chances of being involved in a boating accident. Plus, boating under the influence of intoxicants (BUII) is illegal in Oregon –a Class A misdemeanor. Officers can also arrest boaters for observed impairment below 0.08 percent blood alcohol concentration (BAC). Boaters with a 0.08% BAC immediately lose boating privileges and will pay a hefty, \$6,250 fine. A conviction for a BUII counts toward felony DUII for repeat offenders.



Prepare your boat before you launch

With new blended fuels, a few extra precautions need to be taken such as adding a fuel stabilizer and making sure your fuel filter is clean before you head out to the launch ramp. Keep spare fuel filters on hand, and if using E-10, be sure to run it through your tank. Don't keep a full tank of blended gasoline –damage can occur to the motor. Also, make sure your boat is clean before you launch so you don't spread aquatic invasive species. *Clean, drain and dry* your boat between uses.

Be aware of carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that is lethal. The most common way to be exposed to CO gas is when a passenger hangs onto the rear of the boat or swimming platform to body surf — known as “teak surfing.” Teak surfing can be deadly and is now illegal in Oregon. Early symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, nausea, dizziness and irritated eyes. The onset of these symptoms is extremely fast, and “teak surfers” can sink into the water before anyone realizes what happened. It’s now believed that previously recorded drownings may have actually been caused by CO poisoning.

Boating courtesy

Always operate your boat at a safe speed and at a safe distance from the shore. Watch your wake because it can damage boats and docks and contributes to bank erosion. Keep a look out for other boaters — drive defensively. When launching your boat, have a defined role for each passenger and load your gear before you back down the launch ramp. Be efficient when trailering and launching to prevent bottle-necks at the launch ramp.

###

For more information about boating safety, contact Ashley Massey,
OSMB public affairs specialist at 503.378.2623 or visit www.BoatOregon.com

