

Boat Safe. Boat Sober.

Boating & Alcohol

Boating and drinking can be a deadly mix. One-third of all boating fatalities in Oregon each year are alcohol-related.

Know the law in Oregon:

- Operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is a crime in Oregon.
- By operating a boat in Oregon, you have given consent to submit to field sobriety and breath tests.
- The law applies to all boats, motorized and non-motorized, which includes rafts, kayaks, and canoes.
- A blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% is considered legally "under the influence."
- Officers can arrest for signs of impairment.



Alcohol impairs these crucial functions:

JUDGEMENT - Alcohol impairs your ability to make good decisions. A person may take dangerous risks when under the influence of alcohol.

REACTION TIME – Alcohol slows your reaction time greatly, increasing the risk of collision or other accidents.

VISION – Alcohol impairs your ability to see clearly and affects your peripheral view and depth perception.

BALANCE & COORDINATION – Alcohol impairs your balance and coordination increasing the odds of falling overboard. The ability to coordinate arm and leg movements decreases, making it difficult to swim.



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Legal consequences if convicted for boating under the influence of intoxicants (BUII):

- Pay fines of up to \$6,250 and/or up to a year in jail.
- Complete a boating safety education class.
- Lose boat operation privileges for one year.
- Boat registration(s) are suspended for up to three years.

Before you drink, *think*:

- The effects of alcohol are more pronounced on the water because a person is exposed to wind, glare, noise, vibration, and the motion of the boat.
- Boating collisions and falling overboard are more likely to occur when a person is intoxicated.
- Everyone should wear a life jacket at all times.

Some additional facts:

- One 12 oz. beer (5% alcohol) contains the same amount of alcohol as one 4 oz. glass of wine (12% alcohol) or 1½ oz. (shots) of 80-proof liquor, or 1 oz. (shot) of 100-proof liquor.
- Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant, not a stimulant.
- Alcohol dehydrates the body.



For More Information Contact:
State Marine Board
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