



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

Reminder to Boaters: Practice Safe Boating Habits

Each year, approximately 140 people drown while boating, and more than 80 percent of victims are men. Importantly, more than 90 per cent of these victims were found not wearing a lifejacket or personal flotation device. A lifejacket is like the seat belt of the water. You wear a seat belt because you know you won't have time to put it on in the event of an accident – it is insurance. Think about a lifejacket in the same way – as insurance. If you unexpectedly fall into the water, you won't have time to put it on.

Wearing a lifejacket is just the first step to safe and responsible boating. The Lifesaving Society offers these tips to keep Canadians safe in and around boats this summer:

- Always wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device when boating.
- Do not mix drinking and boating – always boat sober.
- Check the forecast before boating and head to shore immediately should bad weather approach.
- Drive powerboats responsibly – use appropriate speed.
- Stay seated! Never stand up in a small powerboat, canoe, or similar watercraft.
- Don't overload – avoid capsizing by following the restrictions on your vessels capacity plate.
- Carry a VHF radio or cell phone with you when on the water.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Ensure boaters are properly trained in swimming and educated on what to do should they or someone else onboard unexpectedly fall into the water.

Visit <http://www.lifesaving.ca> for more tips on how to stay safe around water this summer.

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