

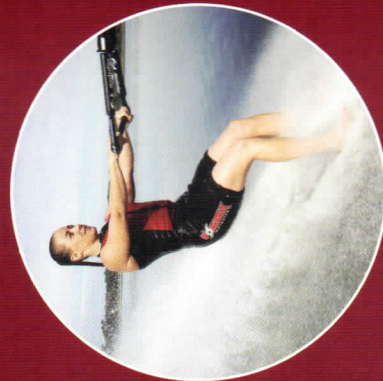
THE FACTS

Each year, people are seriously injured in boating accidents. On average there are 700 boating fatalities per year in the United States. Most accidents involved alcohol, operator inattention, careless and reckless operation, inexperience, failure to follow the Rules of the Road or failure to wear life jackets.

- ▶ The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that wearing life jackets would save the lives of more than 500 people a year.
- ▶ Most injuries result from collisions with other objects. Always know where you're going and what's happening around you.
- ▶ Watersport participants are seriously injured by a propeller as they enter or exit the boat.
- ▶ Nine out of ten fatalities occur on boats where the operator has not completed a boating safety education course.

Almost all injuries and fatalities are avoidable.

Review this brochure and learn what you can do to prevent watersport accidents from occurring.



Find out more about watersport safety. Contact:

National Marine Manufacturers Association

231 S. LaSalle Street Suite 2050
Chicago, IL 60604
nmma.org
discoverboating.com
312.946.6200

United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety

CG Headquarters CG 5422
2100 Second Street
Washington, DC 20593
uscgboating.org
202.372.1062

USA Water Ski

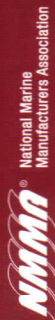
1251 Holy Cow Road
Polk City, FL 33868-8200
usawaterski.org
1.800.533.2972



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Towed Watersports Safety Guidelines

Being Safe Means More Fun on the Water

Know More About It!



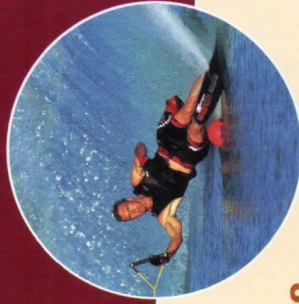
BOATING SAFETY
AWARENESS SERIES

A Public Service of the
National Marine Manufacturers Association



BEFORE HITTING THE WATER

1. Every rider, skier and boater should wear a suitably sized, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. (This is a regulation in many states.) Special life jackets are available for the specific requirements of watersports.
2. Read and heed **all warning labels** and instructions on the boat and in the owner's manual. Be aware of the potential of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning and propeller strike hazards.
3. Always boat sober. Alcohol and drugs don't mix with boating. Boating under the influence (BUI) is illegal in every state.
4. Both driver and observer should be experienced and both should know the rider/skier's abilities and how fast and how long they want to stay on the water.
5. Be sure the observer knows his/her responsibilities including watching for boats approaching from astern and communicating information to the driver.
6. Be sure that both observer and rider/skier know the hand signals for communication before starting. Contact USA Waterski for universal hand signal information.
7. Know your state's boating laws and local lake rules before you head out. Know the area where you are boating.
8. Learn the nautical Rules of the Road in a boating safety education course. Read, understand and follow the operator guidelines for the boat, watersport and safety equipment.



WHILE PARTICIPATING IN WATERSPORTS

It takes three to ski.

1. Shut off the engine completely and remove the key from the ignition when picking up or dropping off a skier or tuber (shutting off the engine also lessens the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning or propeller strike hazards). Never depend on neutral, as the propeller may spin and endanger an unsuspecting person. Never "back up" to anyone in the water.
2. Always use both an experienced driver and observer in the boat. Keep people in view when they enter or exit the boat. Always approach the person in the water on the driver's side (and downwind, where possible).
3. Always keep the rider/skier in sight. Whenever someone is in the water and not being towed, alert other boaters to take caution by displaying a "skier down" flag.
4. Stay at least 100 feet from all other objects and people (e.g., boats, piers, docks, buoys, other floating items, swimmers).
5. Never participate in watersports close to shore or near swimming areas. And never in shallow water or in water where you do not know the depth or what is beneath the surface.
6. Choose a watersports area away from anglers, swimmers, divers, moorings, channel markers, other watercraft and any other danger to participants. Be sure to recognize water hazards such as sandbars, shallows, reefs, and sunken logs or branches.
7. Watch tow lines closely so they don't get tangled in the propeller. Keep all passengers away from tow lines.
8. Follow the approved tow pattern and tow hours in each watersport area. Maintain a safe speed and do not make sudden, unexpected turns.



BEFORE AND AFTER PARTICIPATING IN WATERSPORTS

1. Inspect the towline for wear, fraying, cuts and unnecessary knots before and after each use. Replace the rope when it starts to show wear—well before it breaks.
2. Inspect life jackets for rips and tears, and buckles for breakage.
3. Inspect all tow equipment for wear and damage. Repair or replace equipment before it breaks.

Remember
It takes
three to
participate in
watersports!