



# BOATING PASSENGER SAFETY



## Be Prepared Before You Board

Boating is fun, but it can also be dangerous. In 2016 there were 4,463 accidents that involved 701 deaths, 2,903 injuries related to boating (US Coast Guard). Ask the following questions before going out to sea:

### Does everyone know how to swim?

- If not, make them wear a life jacket!
- Ask how many US Coast Guard approved life jackets are on the boat and where they are located.
- Make sure passengers wear life jackets that fit.

### Has a float plan been developed?

- Leave a copy of a written float plan with your marina, yacht club, or friend.
- Your float plan should include a description of your boat, who is on board, a description of the safety equipment you are carrying, where you expect to be, and when you expect to be there.
- Instruct the person holding the float plan to notify the Coast Guard or other appropriate agency if you do not return within your scheduled arrival.
- When you arrive at your destination, or if your plans change, notify the person holding your float plan.

### Are the boat and passengers equipped to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning?

- Fuel burning engines and appliances should be properly installed and maintained.
- Educate passengers on the symptoms of CO poisoning.
- Swim and play away from areas where boat engines vent their exhaust.
- Watch children closely when they play on rear swim decks or water platforms.
- Never block exhaust outlets-- blocking outlets can cause CO to build up in the cabin and cockpit areas--even when hatches, windows, portholes, and doors are closed.
- Dock, beach, or anchor at least 20 feet away from the nearest boat that is running a generator or engine. Exhaust from a nearby vessel can send CO into the cabin and cockpit of a boat.

GOING ON A VENTURE OUT TO SEA? CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STAYING SAFE ON THE WATER:



[www.4-safety.org](http://www.4-safety.org)



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