

## Safety Corner

How to be safe during a pleasure boat trip?

Aquatic activities are refreshing during hot summer days. However, no matter how experienced you are around water, it is always a good idea to be familiar with general boating safety rules. Below are basic boating safety tips for passengers:

### Lifejackets

- Always wear a lifejacket on speed boats, smaller boats, and jet skis. Make sure you know where the lifejackets are. Lifejackets are the single most important safety item on any boat and there should be one on board for each person.
- Always check local weather conditions before departure; TV and radio forecasts can be a good source of information. Stay ashore if weather warnings are current or the weather appears doubtful.
- Keep in touch: let someone who is not on board know the description of your boat, the number of passengers, where you are going, and your expected time of return.
- General safety: do check with the coxswain if you think the boat is not operating at a safe speed.
- Stay alert to possible risk situations as when passing the wakes of a speedy boat or a large vessel. If your boat suddenly slows down, hold on something.
- Wear proper clothing and shoes. Be aware of the slippery deck and stairs, don't run.
- Do not consume too much alcohol.
- Have adequate lighting if cruising at night.
- If you are tired, sick, on medication, having alcoholic drinks or a full stomach, do not swim or stay in the water for too long.
- Be aware of your whereabouts. Don't swim far from the shore or the boat. Do not rely on life buoys or other buoyancy aids.
- Be aware of strong swell, don't swim alone or after dark.
- Be aware of the water depth, don't dive into the sea from a height if you are no sure.

Stay safe while having fun:

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