



# Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department

Public Education Division

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## Boating Safety

Americans increasingly head to the water for recreation and relaxation.

It is essential that everyone in or near the water, both the novice and the experienced, practice water safety habits, including wearing life jackets or other approved personal flotation devices (PFD's).

Drowning is the leading cause of fatalities involving recreational boating. Approximately 88% of people who died in boating accidents were not wearing life jackets at the time.

80% of those who drown in boating or water accidents would be alive today if they had been wearing a personal flotation device.

Everyone in a boat must have a Coast Guard approved PFD or life jacket that is either worn or easily accessible. Each boat should also have a PFD that can be thrown.

A PFD provides flotation to keep your head above water, helps you stay face up in the water, and increase your chances for survival and rescue.

### Boating Life Safety Tips

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Anyone participating in a water sport should know how to swim.</li><li>✓ Never boat alone. Only allow children to go boating when an adult is with them.</li><li>✓ When getting in, step into the middle of the boat to keep it from tipping and stay seated.</li><li>✓ Check weather and water conditions before boating.</li><li>✓ If you hear thunder or see lightning head for shore immediately.</li><li>✓ All boats should be equipped with operational lights, a horn and fire extinguisher.</li><li>✓ Bring a cell phone with you when boating in case you have trouble. The GPS location information transmitted by your phone can greatly assist emergency personnel in finding you should the need arise.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>✓ Did you know....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ In 2010, the Coast Guard counted 4604 accidents that involved 672 deaths, 3153 injuries and approximately \$35.5 million in damage to property.</li><li>✓ Almost 3/4th of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 88% did not have life jackets on.</li><li>✓ 8 out of 10 boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.</li><li>✓ Only 9% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction.</li><li>✓ The top 5 primary contributing factors to 2010 boating accidents were: 1.Operator inattention; 2.Improper lookout; 3. Operator inexperience; 4. Excessive speed; and 5. Alcohol use</li></ul> <p><small>***All information shown in this section is from the <a href="http://www.uscgboating.org">www.uscgboating.org</a> Recreational Boating Statistics 2010 annual report</small></p>
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