

# **SAFE BOATERS' CHECKLIST**

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## **EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST - REQUIRED AND/OR RECOMMENDED**

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- Boater Education Card
- Boat registration (certificate of number) or documentation certificate
- Life jacket suitable for each person on board, readily accessible, in good condition
- Throwable flotation aid immediately available
- Fire extinguishers conveniently placed, fully charged, in good condition
- Visual distress signals (with current expiration dates for flares)
- Working horn or whistle
- Anchor and anchor line appropriate to area, depth, conditions
- Compass properly adjusted
- Charts for the area, up to date
- Boat hook
- Mooring lines and fenders in good condition
- Paddles or oars
- Tool kit and spare parts (including light bulbs, fuses)
- Flashlight
- Bucket or bailing device
- VHF radio (cell phone as backup)
- First aid kit
- Weather or AM radio
- Personal items (drinking water, sunscreen, prescription drugs, etc.)

## **VESSEL SYSTEMS CHECKLIST**

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- Bilge free of fuel vapors and excess water
- Fuel supply full
- Fuel system free of leaks
- Engine oil and transmission fluid levels correct
- Battery fully charged, fluid level full
- Electronic gear in good condition
- Engine drive belts tight, in good condition
- All navigation lights working
- Steering and shift mechanisms in good condition
- Outboard motor mountings tight (if appro-

## **DEPARTURE CHECKLIST**

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- Make sure each person has a properly fitted PFD and urge them to wear it. Youth 12 and under are required to wear a PFD.
- Show passengers:
  - Location of PFDs, fire extinguisher(s), visual distress signals, first aid kit, and how to use them
  - Safety procedures for rough weather, man overboard, fire, using VHF radio to signal for help
- Take in all dock lines and fenders.
- Instruct passengers to stay seated and keep hands, arms, etc., inside the boat.
- Sound proper whistle (horn) signals.
- As you leave the dock area, take in all lines and fenders and keep them clear of the propeller.
- Keep a lookout at all times for other boats, persons, and objects in the water.
- Proceed slowly whenever leaving or returning to a dock.
- Use just enough power to maintain control.