



Everything
you need to
know about
boating
in Missouri

is just a
CLICK away!

Missouri State Water Patrol

P. O. Box 1368 • Jefferson City, MO 65102 • 573-751-3333

Missouri State Water Patrol Home Page
www.mswp.dps.mo.gov

Boating Information
boatinfo@mswp.dps.mo.gov

Safety Education
education@mswp.dps.mo.gov

Applicants requesting information regarding documenting a vessel with the U.S. Coast Guard should contact:

U.S. Coast Guard
National Vessel Documentation Center

792 T J Jackson Drive, Falling Waters, West Virginia 25419-9502

1-800-799-8362 or 304-271-2400

www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvdc/

Missouri State Water Patrol and *You*

Programs and Services

The Missouri State Water Patrol has the responsibility of patrolling the major waterways in Missouri.

These include:

- ◆ 272,770 acres of lakes with 5,500 miles of shoreline
- ◆ 519 miles of the Mississippi River
- ◆ 533 miles of the Missouri River
- ◆ All the tributaries of these waterways



Boater Education

To reduce boating accidents and related fatalities, the Water Patrol provides boater education programs for children and adults. They are taught by Water Patrol officers throughout the year. Missouri requires anyone born after January 1, 1984, to have a boating safety certification approved by the Missouri Water Patrol in order to operate a boat or personal watercraft on the lakes of the state. In addition, they also must carry some form of photo identification. Persons who possess a U.S. Coast Guard or Power Squadron boating course certificate may apply for a certificate issued by the Water Patrol.

Flood Duty

The Water Patrol provides a variety of services during floods. These services include rescue, evacuation, and security as well as many others. The division works closely with the State Emergency Management Agency and any other agency requesting assistance.

Water Pollution

The Water Patrol monitors rivers and lakes to advise the

Department of Natural Resources of any pollutants that might be contaminating state waters.

Dive Team

The Missouri State Water Patrol Dive Team consists of 11 Water Patrol officers who are fully trained and equipped for rescue and recovery operations. Drownings, boating accident fatality victims, criminal evidence from felony crimes, vehicles, and explosive materials are just some of the reasons for conducting dives. Divers are located throughout the state to ensure a timely response to dive sites.

Assistance to Other Agencies

The Water Patrol frequently assists local, state, and federal agencies during emergency situations. Water Patrol officers, due to their extensive training requirements, have full police authority and can respond to requests for assistance by any Sheriff, Chief of Police, or the Superintendent of the Highway Patrol.

Other Services

Other services provided by the Water Patrol are:

- ◆ Providing safety exhibits and inspecting safety equipment in vessels
- ◆ Investigating water-related accidents
- ◆ Administering first aid
- ◆ Investigating complaints and criminal activities, and assisting other law enforcement departments
- ◆ Patrolling regattas, races, fishing tournaments, skiing exhibitions, and other water-related events
- ◆ Authorizing placement of navigation buoys, and investigating navigational obstructions

Contacting the Water Patrol

P.O. Box 1368

Jefferson City, MO 65102

tel: 573-751-3333

e-mail: boatinfo@mswp.dps.mo.gov

- Information
- Comments
- Complaints
- Suggestions

Safety Inspections

The Missouri State Water Patrol inspects over 10,000 vessels annually. A safety inspection determines that equipment complies with state law. A safety inspection involves the following:



- ◆ The certificate of number (registration card) for the vessel is checked to determine if the registration is current.
- ◆ The registration number display is checked to determine if number spacing, height, block style, and contrasting color requirements are correct.
- ◆ Personal flotation devices are checked for accessibility, serviceability, proper size, quantity, and type.
- ◆ Sound-producing devices are checked for operability. Bells are checked for vessels 40 feet and over in length.
- ◆ Fire extinguishers are checked for proper type, size, and adequate charge.
- ◆ Ventilation systems are checked for functional operation.
- ◆ Mufflers are checked to determine compliance with sound level requirements, when applicable.
- ◆ When marine toilets are on board, they are inspected for proper storage of waste materials.
- ◆ Outboard motors are checked for the registration decal and motor serial number.
- ◆ Navigation lights are checked to make sure the colored lenses are in the correct positions. Navigation lights are not required to pass a safety inspection, unless you intend to operate your vessel after sunset.

Upon successful completion of a safety inspection, the vessel owner is awarded a safety inspection decal that signifies compliance with Missouri boating equipment requirements. This decal is affixed by the Water Patrol officer immediately behind the registration number display on the port (left) side of the vessel.

History

In 1959, legislation was enacted to create the Missouri Boat Commission. The purpose of the commission was to make the waters of the state safe for boating and other water-related activities through registration, inspection, education, and law enforcement.



In 1974, the Omnibus State Reorganization Act transferred the Boat Commission to the Department of Public Safety and the agency was named the Division of Water Safety. In 1989, the agency name was changed to the Missouri State Water Patrol. Since 1959, the authorized number of patrol officers has grown from eight to ninety-nine highly trained, professional officers.

The Missouri State Water Patrol operates in a quasi-military fashion with authority being delegated by rank to patrol officers who are responsible for carrying out the day-to-



day priorities of work set by the Commissioner. The Commissioner is appointed by the governor and holds the rank of colonel. Second in command

to the Commissioner is the Assistant Commissioner who holds the rank of lieutenant colonel. The lieutenant colonel is responsible for the supervision of all field activities and operations of the Water Patrol and reports to the colonel directly.

The state is divided into six districts with a captain in charge of each district.

Safety Tips for Other Water Activities

Swimming

- ◆ Because it is almost impossible for boat operators to spot a swimmer, especially in waves, swimmers should:
 - Not swim outside of designated or safe areas.
 - Swim only in deep waters where they can be seen by boaters and with a boat alongside.
- ◆ Inflatable toys can be easily punctured and lose air. Wind can push a toy out of a user's reach. Users should be sure they don't drift too far from shore. Inflatable toys are not a substitute for supervision—always watch children who use these toys.
- ◆ Swimmers should know their ability and never exceed it. Never dive into unknown depths or swim alone.

Scuba Diving and Snorkeling

- ◆ As a vessel operator you should:
 - Be able to recognize a diver-down flag—a red flag with a white diagonal stripe floating in the divers' area.
 - Stay the legal distance away from a diver-down flag.
 - Keep a lookout for bubbles breaking the surface of the water. The bubbles indicate that there are divers below who may have strayed from their marked diving area.
- ◆ In order to ensure their own safety, divers should:
 - Always display the diver-down flag.
 - Select a boat that is suited for diving. A small boat with easy exit or entry is best, although it should be large enough to hold diving gear comfortably. Flat-bottomed boats should be considered for this reason.
 - Avoid overloading the boat with people or equipment and supplies.
 - Always anchor the boat securely.

Avoiding Propeller Strike Injuries

Most propeller strike accidents result from operator error. Victims include swimmers, scuba divers, fallen water-skiers, and boat operators or passengers. Most propeller accidents can be prevented by following basic safe boating practices.

- ◆ Maintain a proper lookout. The primary cause of propeller strike accidents is operator inattention.
- ◆ Make sure the engine is off so that the propeller is not rotating when passengers are boarding or leaving a boat.
- ◆ Never start a boat with the engine in gear.
- ◆ Slow down when approaching congested areas and anchorages. In congested areas, always be alert for swimmers and divers.
- ◆ Learn to recognize warning buoys that mark swimming and hazardous areas.
- ◆ Keep the boat away from marked swimming and diving areas. Become familiar with the red and white or blue and white diver-down flags signaling that divers are below the surface.
- ◆ Make sure that passengers are seated properly before getting underway. Some operators of larger boats with several passengers have caused injuries by putting the engine in gear while people were still swimming or diving from the boat.
- ◆ Never ride on a seat back, gunwale, transom, or bow.

Devices that Reduce Propeller Strikes

There are several new technologies designed to reduce propeller strikes. The effectiveness of the devices varies, depending on the boat and the operating environment. For more information, read the article “Propeller Injury Intervention” on the U.S. Coast Guard’s Boating Safety website: www.uscgboating.org.



2009 Sunrise and Sunset Chart

Jefferson City, Missouri - Central Standard Time

DAY	JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
1	7:26	16:59	7:14	17:31	6:41	18:02	5:53	18:32	5:11	19:01	4:46	19:27
2	7:27	17:00	7:13	17:32	6:39	18:03	5:52	18:33	5:10	19:02	4:46	19:28
3	7:27	17:00	7:12	17:33	6:38	18:04	5:50	18:34	5:09	19:03	4:45	19:29
4	7:27	17:01	7:11	17:35	6:36	18:05	5:49	18:35	5:08	19:04	4:45	19:29
5	7:27	17:02	7:10	17:36	6:35	18:06	5:47	18:36	5:07	19:05	4:45	19:30
6	7:27	17:03	7:09	17:37	6:33	18:07	5:46	18:37	5:06	19:06	4:45	19:31
7	7:27	17:04	7:08	17:38	6:32	18:08	5:44	18:38	5:05	19:07	4:44	19:31
8	7:27	17:05	7:07	17:39	6:30	18:09	5:43	18:39	5:03	19:07	4:44	19:32
9	7:26	17:06	7:06	17:40	6:29	18:10	5:41	18:40	5:02	19:08	4:44	19:32
10	7:26	17:07	7:05	17:41	6:27	18:11	5:40	18:41	5:01	19:09	4:44	19:33
11	7:26	17:08	7:04	17:43	6:26	18:12	5:38	18:42	5:00	19:10	4:44	19:33
12	7:26	17:09	7:03	17:44	6:24	18:13	5:37	18:43	5:00	19:11	4:44	19:34
13	7:26	17:10	7:02	17:45	6:23	18:14	5:35	18:44	4:59	19:12	4:44	19:34
14	7:25	17:11	7:00	17:46	6:21	18:15	5:34	18:45	4:58	19:13	4:44	19:34
15	7:25	17:12	6:59	17:47	6:20	18:16	5:32	18:46	4:57	19:14	4:44	19:35
16	7:24	17:13	6:58	17:48	6:18	18:17	5:31	18:47	4:56	19:15	4:44	19:35
17	7:24	17:14	6:57	17:49	6:17	18:18	5:30	18:48	4:55	19:16	4:44	19:35
18	7:24	17:15	6:55	17:50	6:15	18:19	5:28	18:49	4:54	19:16	4:44	19:36
19	7:23	17:16	6:54	17:51	6:13	18:20	5:27	18:49	4:54	19:17	4:44	19:36
20	7:23	17:17	6:53	17:52	6:12	18:21	5:25	18:50	4:53	19:18	4:44	19:36
21	7:22	17:19	6:52	17:54	6:10	18:22	5:24	18:51	4:52	19:19	4:45	19:36
22	7:22	17:20	6:50	17:55	6:09	18:23	5:23	18:52	4:51	19:20	4:45	19:37
23	7:21	17:21	6:49	17:56	6:07	18:24	5:21	18:53	4:51	19:21	4:45	19:37
24	7:20	17:22	6:48	17:57	6:06	18:25	5:20	18:54	4:50	19:21	4:46	19:37
25	7:20	17:23	6:46	17:58	6:04	18:26	5:19	18:55	4:50	19:22	4:46	19:37
26	7:19	17:24	6:45	17:59	6:03	18:27	5:17	18:56	4:49	19:23	4:46	19:37
27	7:18	17:25	6:43	18:00	6:01	18:28	5:16	18:57	4:48	19:24	4:47	19:37
28	7:17	17:27	6:42	18:01	5:59	18:29	5:15	18:58	4:48	19:25	4:47	19:37
29	7:17	17:28			5:58	18:30	5:14	18:59	4:47	19:25	4:47	19:37
30	7:16	17:29			5:56	18:30	5:12	19:00	4:47	19:26	4:48	19:37
31	7:15	17:30			5:55	18:31			4:47	19:27		



DAY	JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
1	4:48	19:37	5:11	19:19	5:38	18:38	6:05	17:51	6:36	17:08	7:08	16:48
2	4:49	19:37	5:12	19:18	5:39	18:37	6:06	17:50	6:37	17:07	7:09	16:48
3	4:49	19:37	5:12	19:17	5:40	18:35	6:07	17:48	6:38	17:06	7:10	16:48
4	4:50	19:36	5:13	19:16	5:41	18:34	6:08	17:47	6:39	17:05	7:10	16:48
5	4:50	19:36	5:14	19:15	5:42	18:32	6:08	17:45	6:40	17:04	7:11	16:47
6	4:51	19:36	5:15	19:13	5:43	18:31	6:09	17:43	6:41	17:03	7:12	16:47
7	4:51	19:36	5:16	19:12	5:43	18:29	6:10	17:42	6:42	17:02	7:13	16:47
8	4:52	19:35	5:17	19:11	5:44	18:28	6:11	17:40	6:43	17:01	7:14	16:47
9	4:53	19:35	5:18	19:10	5:45	18:26	6:12	17:39	6:44	17:00	7:15	16:48
10	4:53	19:35	5:19	19:09	5:46	18:24	6:13	17:37	6:45	16:59	7:16	16:48
11	4:54	19:34	5:20	19:08	5:47	18:23	6:14	17:36	6:47	16:59	7:16	16:48
12	4:55	19:34	5:20	19:06	5:48	18:21	6:15	17:35	6:48	16:58	7:17	16:48
13	4:55	19:33	5:21	19:05	5:49	18:20	6:16	17:33	6:49	16:57	7:18	16:48
14	4:56	19:33	5:22	19:04	5:50	18:18	6:17	17:32	6:50	16:56	7:19	16:48
15	4:57	19:32	5:23	19:03	5:50	18:16	6:18	17:30	6:51	16:55	7:19	16:49
16	4:58	19:32	5:24	19:01	5:51	18:15	6:19	17:29	6:52	16:55	7:20	16:49
17	4:58	19:31	5:25	19:00	5:52	18:13	6:20	17:27	6:53	16:54	7:21	16:49
18	4:59	19:30	5:26	18:59	5:53	18:12	6:21	17:26	6:54	16:53	7:21	16:50
19	5:00	19:30	5:27	18:57	5:54	18:10	6:22	17:25	6:55	16:53	7:22	16:50
20	5:01	19:29	5:28	18:56	5:55	18:08	6:23	17:23	6:56	16:52	7:22	16:51
21	5:01	19:28	5:28	18:54	5:56	18:07	6:24	17:22	6:57	16:52	7:23	16:51
22	5:02	19:28	5:29	18:53	5:57	18:05	6:25	17:21	6:59	16:51	7:23	16:52
23	5:03	19:27	5:30	18:52	5:58	18:04	6:26	17:19	7:00	16:51	7:24	16:52
24	5:04	19:26	5:31	18:50	5:58	18:02	6:27	17:18	7:01	16:50	7:24	16:53
25	5:05	19:25	5:32	18:49	5:59	18:01	6:28	17:17	7:02	16:50	7:25	16:53
26	5:06	19:24	5:33	18:47	6:00	17:59	6:29	17:16	7:03	16:49	7:25	16:54
27	5:06	19:24	5:34	18:46	6:01	17:57	6:30	17:14	7:04	16:49	7:25	16:55
28	5:07	19:23	5:35	18:44	6:02	17:56	6:31	17:13	7:05	16:49	7:26	16:55
29	5:08	19:22	5:36	18:43	6:03	17:54	6:32	17:12	7:06	16:48	7:26	16:56
30	5:09	19:21	5:36	18:41	6:04	17:53	6:34	17:11	7:07	16:48	7:26	16:57
31	5:10	19:20	5:37	18:40			6:35	17:10			7:26	16:58

Source: U.S. Naval Observatory, http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php

QUICK REFERENCE

Equipment Required by Missouri State Law



	PWC	Boat Less Than 16 Feet	Boat 16 Feet or Longer
Certificate of Number On Board	✓	✓	✓
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓
PFDs: Type I, II, III, or V	✓ ¹	✓ ²	✓ ²
PFD: Type IV			✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher	✓	✓	✓ ³
Ignition Safety Switch	✓		
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓
Muffler	✓	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell			✓
Skier-Down Flag		✓ ⁴	✓ ⁴
Navigation Lights	✓	✓	✓

1. Those on PWCs must *wear* a personal flotation device at all times.
2. Children under the age of 7 years must *wear* a PFD at all times unless confined in a fully enclosed area.
3. Two Type B-I fire extinguishers or one Type B-II fire extinguisher is required for vessels 26 feet in length or longer (or equivalent with fixed system; see page 41).
4. Required for display whenever an occupant of the motorboat enters the water if on waters of the Mississippi River, the Missouri River, or Missouri lakes between the hours of 11 a.m. and sunset.