Sober Boating Safe Boating



Boating Under the Influence (BUI) is not only dangerous, it's illegal.

If you boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol you are endangering your life and the lives of others. Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in recreational boating fatalities.

Alcohol can impair a boater's balance, judgement, vision and coordination.

Alcohol use is dangerous for passengers too. Intoxication can cause slips, falls over board and other dangerous accidents out on the water.

BUI Enforcement

The U.S. Coast Guard standard for determining if a boat operator is intoxicated is when the person's manner, disposition, speech, movement, appearance or behavior appears impaired by observation and/or through the administration of a chemical test.

If you operate a boat under the influence, the vessel may be impounded, the operator may be arrested, face fines or jail time or lose their boating privileges.

See RI's Alcohol Boating Safety Act at http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/statutes/title46/46-22.2/index.htm



Boating Responsibly

As we kick off the summer boating season, many will be participating in recreational boating here in Rhode Island. While time out on the water may be full of fun and leisure, the number one priority for every boater should be safety. Make sure you are prepared for any possible situation while out on the water.

Before You Go

- Complete a Boating Safety Course
- Do a Vessel Safety Check
- Prepare a Pre-Departure Checklist
- Check the weather before sailing
- File a Float Plan with at least one person on land

What You Need

- Life Jackets
- Throwable Flotation Aids
- Visual Distress Signals
- Sound Producing Device
- Engine Cut-Off Device
- Emergency Locator Device
- Emergency Boating Kit
- Drinking Water



Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Boat Sober.



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