

# Boating Safety

The season of jet skis, row boats, rafts, fishing boats, pontoons, and kayaks, just to name a few, is upon us. That's right... summer is around the bend. We want to take a few minutes to review some boating safety tips. Our main emphasis remains on the use of life jackets. In 2012, 71% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, of those 85% were not wearing a life jacket.

- Wear a life jacket!
- Lead by example-let the kids see you being safe!
- Have the proper sized life jacket for each member on the boat.
- Have children do the touchdown sign. If the life jacket hits the bottom of their chin, it may be too big.
- If an infant is in the boat, hold them in your lap with a proper sized life jacket on the infant and adult.
- Do not use a car seat to secure infants or toddlers in a boat.
- Do not rely on swimming aides such as water wings or noodles.
- Child proof your boat-keep chemicals out of reach, don't leave keys in the ignition, etc.
- Keep small children warm-have extra blankets, towels and dry clothes.
- Use your best judgment, and think before acting.
- Remember, boats are moving vehicles, too. Please don't drink and boat.
- Just like with fire safety, come up with a boat safety plan in the event of an accident. Don't forget to practice it.
- Summer is all about fun, so have fun even while being safe!

For more information, visit the SafeKids website below!

[http://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/boating\\_safety\\_tips\\_0.pdf](http://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/boating_safety_tips_0.pdf)

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