



READY TO GO SEAMANSHIP SERVICES

For Safer and Smarter Boating

Boating Lessons / Captain For Hire / Marine Advisor

Pre-Departure Checklist: Review this list with guests before leaving the dock

USCG Required Equipment

- ☐ Registration/documentation and proper display of numbers.
Documents must be carried onboard.
- ☐ Life jackets for every person onboard: the right size, fit, and intended use.
Must be "Readily Accessible."
- ☐ Type IV (Throwable) required for vessels $\geq 16'$. Must be "Immediately Accessible."
- ☐ Visual Distress Signals (VDS): either 3 days and 3 nights or a combination. Check expiration date.
- ☐ Engine Cut Off Switch (ECOS). Required for vessels $\leq 26'$. Must be attached to the operator.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher in serviceable condition. Must be "Readily Accessible."
Vessels $\geq 26'$ - $\leq 40'$ must carry 2.
- ☐ Ventilation for engines with closed compartments. Run the blower 4 min. before turning on the engine
- ☐ Back Fire Flame Arrestor - required for inboard/outboard or inboard motors.
- ☐ Sound Producing Device (whistle, horn, siren, etc.) capable of a 4-second blast audible for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
- ☐ Navigation Lights: Must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during reduced visibility.
- ☐ Oil Pollution Placard required for boats $\geq 26'$ with a machinery compartment.
- ☐ MARPOL Garbage Placard required for boats $\geq 26'$. Must be displayed in a conspicuous location.
- ☐ Navigation Rules COLREGS required to carry a copy for boats $>39.4'$.

Not Required But Recommended to Carry Onboard

- ☐ Marine VHF Radio - Fixed or Handheld. Monitor Channel 16. Cellular is not reliable on the water.
- ☐ Dewatering Device Back Up (Manual pump, bucket, etc.)
- ☐ Anchor and rode (line and chain) are securely attached to the boat. Recommended ratio 7:1.
- ☐ Fenders: A minimum of 2 is recommended; 4 is ideal.
- ☐ Dock Lines: 2 for the bow, 2 for the stern, and 2 for spring lines.
- ☐ Boat Hook - Useful for docking and retrieving items from the water.
- ☐ First Aid Kit.
- ☐ EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) or PLB (Personal Locator Beacon).
- ☐ Tool Box.

Always Check

- ☐ Weather & Tide Forecast for the area. Keep monitoring throughout the day. Check charts for the area.
- ☐ Drain Plug, bilge pump functional, through-hull hoses conditions, battery fully charged and secured.
- ☐ Enough fuel: $\frac{1}{3}$ Out, $\frac{1}{3}$ Return, $\frac{1}{3}$ Reserve.
- ☐ Engine Start: Check for proper water flow from the motor, oil pressure, and engine temperature.
- ☐ Steering and shift controls are working properly.
- ☐ Electronics: GPS, Compass, Depth Finder, Radar, etc.
- ☐ Radio Check: Recommended Channel is 9, NOT 16. Channel 16 is for distress, safety, and hailing.
- ☐ Proper clothing, head cover, sunscreen, plenty of water, and food.
- ☐ Marine Sanitation Device: If equipped, make sure there is no risk of accidental/illegal discharge.



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Safety Briefing: Review with passengers before leaving the dock

Have a safety review of the following items and show location

- ☐ PFDs: Make sure you carry one for each passenger, the right size and type. Must be "Readily accessible." Must be worn while underway by children <6 yrs old on FL state waters and <13 yrs old on Federal waters
- ☐ Type IV - Must be immediately accessible.
- ☐ Fire extinguishers - Check gauge status, ensure the pin is secured, and verify the expiration date. They must be readily accessible.
- ☐ Distress Signals - Check Expiration Date
- ☐ VHF Radio - Do a "Radio Check." Channel 9 is the preferred channel. Demonstrate how to make a "Mayday Call." See below.
- ☐ First Aid Kit.
- ☐ Connect Safety Lanyard. Keep it attached to the operator when underway.
- ☐ For boats with engine compartments; **RUN THE BLOWERS FOR 4 MINUTES** before starting the engine.

Discuss the following safety tips

- ☐ No drinking for the operator; monitor passengers' alcohol consumption.
- ☐ Designate specific seating areas for passengers. No sitting on the bow, gunwale, or stern while underway.
- ☐ When moving around the boat, maintain three points of contact. Passengers must inform the operator before moving.
- ☐ The operator should always announce any changes in speed or direction.
- ☐ Encourage passengers to remain alert and help with lookout duties. If you see danger, speak up.
- ☐ Assign responsibilities such as handling lines, fenders, docking, and anchoring.
- ☐ Stay hydrated and apply sunscreen
- ☐ Always keep a close watch on children

Have all persons put on a Life Jacket and have Type IV immediately accessible.

EMERGENCY RADIO CALL PROCEDURES

1. MAKE SURE VHF RADIO IS ON
2. ON DSC RADIO, LIFT THE COVER, PRESS THE DISTRESS BUTTON FOR 5 SECONDS AND RELEASE
3. VERIFY THE RADIO HAS SWITCHED TO CHANNEL 16. GO TO STEP 5
4. ON NON-DSC RADIOS, CHANGE TO CHANNEL 16
5. PRESS AND HOLD THE TRANSMIT BUTTON
6. CLEARLY SAY "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY"
7. GIVE:
 - a. VESSEL NAME AND/OR DESCRIPTION
 - b. POSITION AND/OR LOCATION
 - c. NATURE OF EMERGENCY
 - d. NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON BOARD
8. RELEASE TRANSMIT BUTTON
9. WAIT 30 SECONDS - IF NO RESPONSE, REPEAT **MAYDAY** CALL



Be ready to use the safety gear

- Fire Extinguisher
- VDS
- EPIRB
- Sound-producing device
- Anchor

Consider taking the Boat Control On Water Training with NSBC Instructor Captain Ariel Rodriguez