

OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE
MARINE DIVISION
BOAT SAFETY CHECK LIST

Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's)

- PFD's must be readily accessible, the correct size, and one per person.
- Children under the age of 6 must wear a type I or type II while on the open deck of a vessel.
- Persons operating, riding on, or being towed behind PWC must wear a type I, II, or III PFD.
- Vessels 16 feet or longer in length must have a type IV throwable PFD in addition to jacket type PFDs on board.
- Use of Type III inflatable PFD's is illegal when operating, riding on, or being towed by a PWC.
- Type III inflatable PFD's are legal on watercraft (other than PWC's) for persons 16 years of age and older.

Watercraft Registration

- Watercraft registration must be current and on board.
- Where required by law, ensure that the operator has his or her State of Michigan Boater Safety Certificate on board.
- Properly display MC numbers and current validation decal, e.g. both sides of the hull, forward half of vessel, above the waterline, 3 inch block letters and numbers of contrasting colors to the watercraft's hull.

Ventilation

- Check for fuel smells.
- Check the bilge for gas or oil. Correct all flammable liquid problems before starting your engine or operating electrical devices.
- Run your ventilation blower before initially starting the engine.
- Before fueling, close all compartments. After fueling is completed, open all compartments to ventilate and run the blower for at least 4 minutes to purge all trapped fumes.

Fire Extinguishers, required when carrying flammable liquids or fuel on board

- Must be fully charged. Check the gauge or use the small test button to check the pressure.
- Must be a type "B" fire extinguisher (for flammable liquids).
- Must be U.S. Coast Guard approved for marine use.
- Vessels less than 26 feet, one size 1 extinguisher is required.
- Vessels 26 feet & less than 40 feet, two Size 1 extinguishers, or one size 2 extinguisher are required.
- Vessels 40 feet to less than 65 feet, three size 1 extinguishers, or one size 1 and one size 2 extinguisher are required.

Sound Producing Device

- Horn or portable device, e.g. whistle or air horn capable of producing a 4 second blast that can be heard for at least ½ mile.

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Lights (required between the hours of sunset & sunrise)

- Red and green navigation lights.
- White stern and/or anchor light.

Visual Distress Signals (required on Federal waters)

- Accessible flares and day signals stored in a dry location.

Fuel and Oil

- Be sure to have enough fuel to provide a reasonable margin for safe return.
- Check the oil to make sure it is at the proper level.

Trailers

- Safety chains must be used when towing.
- Trailer must be equipped with working brake lights and tail lights.
- Make sure tires are in good condition with proper pressure
- Maintain wheel bearings
- Ensure that trailer hitch size matches the towing ball size

Safety concerns, tools and spare equipment

- Consider carrying "tools" you may need such as a **cell phone**
- Spare light bulbs, spare keys, flashlights, etc.
- Anchor & line
- Dock lines
- Boat fenders / bumpers
- First-Aid kit

Weather and water conditions

- Check the weather forecast and file a float plan with a friend