

# Stay Safe, Be Educated

SOME BASIC BOATING SAFETY AND EDUCATIONAL TIPS AND RESOURCES

## WEAR A LIFE JACKET

Most drowning victims are boaters who weren't wearing their life jacket. Modern life jackets aren't too bulky, they don't take up too much space in your boat, and are always a "better safe than sorry" measure to take. If you're unsure about your swimming abilities, put one on!

## TAKE A BOATING COURSE

Even if you're not planning on operating the boat yourself, basic boating safety knowledge is extremely important. It's important to be educated and prepared for any circumstance that might arise. Below are some helpful links to boater education and safety websites for your convenience:

- [www.boat-ed.com/missouri](http://www.boat-ed.com/missouri)
- [U.S Coast Guard Boating Safety Division](http://www.uscg.gov/boating-safety)

## EXAMINE YOUR BOAT

The US Coast Guard offers [free vessel safety checks](#), because they want to be sure that you're safe out there on the water. The US Coast Guard will provide a specialist to check out your boat and they'll make helpful boating safety tips and recommendations. Below is a small list of simple checks you can do yourself, too!

- Check your bilge pumps, does the auto switch work?
- Is your shower-power connected and switched on?
- Is your battery charger operating properly?
- How old are your batteries? If they're more than 5 years check them, and replace them if needed!
- Are the shaft log or rudder posts leaking?
- How old are the hoses on your thru-hull valves?

## AVOID DRINKING

Keep your eyes open on the water for people driving carelessly or buzzed. Drunk drivers are just as dangerous on the water as they are on the road.

## LEARN TO SWIM

If you're planning on being around the water, learn to swim! If you don't know how to swim, or can't swim well, wear your life jacket at all times.

## USE COMMON SENSE

Be respectful of buoyed areas and set speed limits, it is no wake west of the Orleans Trail wake buoys. Pay attention to your surroundings and stay alert.

For additional information on **Boating Safety and Education** take a look at [BoatUS Foundation's](#) website for all the safety and educational material you could need to keep you and your love ones safe out on the water.