

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010



Recreational boating is truly one of Canada's favourite pastimes, the Insurance Bureau of Canada wants you to "KNOW BEFORE YOU GO."

While many groups are undertaking different initiatives to make sure all your boating trips are return trips, it's important you understand that safe boating is a shared responsibility. Once you have decided to become a recreational boater, you must do your part both before heading out and while on the water.

* Take an accredited Canadian [boating course](#)

Inspect all your [equipment](#) before departure

Buckle up your [lifejacket or personal flotation device](#) before getting on board

Check the forecast for [weather and water conditions](#) before heading out and keep a watchful eye out for changing conditions

Study and carry your marine [charts](#)

Leave a [trip/rescue plan](#) with a responsible person

Don't cruise with booze

Sharing waterways

Recreational boaters should be prepared to share waterways with wildlife, swimmers, divers, other boaters and watercraft ranging from sailboats to float planes. As an operator, you must respect others on or near the water for them to respect your rights. Operators using courtesy and common sense will not create a hazard, threat, stress or be an irritant to others, to the environment or to wildlife.

Rules of the road



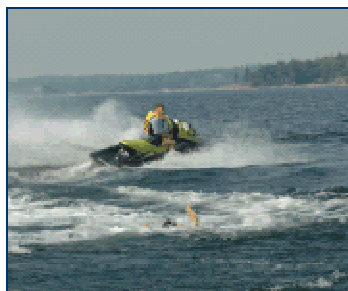
Following the rules of the road is an important part of recreational boating. Everyone is entitled to a safe, fun time on the water so learn the rules and boat by them.

Doing so is not just a matter of courtesy; it is the law, set out in the Collision Regulations. They apply to every vessel and operator on all navigable waters — from canoes to supertankers.

Maintaining a proper lookout and avoiding a collision

Maintaining a constant lookout is common sense and the law. If you are sharing the water with large vessels remember they have limited visibility, manoeuvrability and take much longer to come to a stop. Be prepared to move out of the way of these vessels for these reasons.

Be aware and be considerate



Never buzz, try to spray swimmers, cut in front of or try to jump the wake of other vessels. Some of the worst boating accidents happen when speed or distance is misjudged.

Information obtained from IBC and Transport Canada

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