

Tips For Boating Safety

- Always make sure someone is aware of where you are boating and when you expect to return.
- **Know the laws.** The use of personal watercraft from sunset to sunrise is prohibited. You must wear the proper U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket, carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved visual distress signal and a sound signaling device, use a lanyard type cut-off switch, if supplied. Age and training restrictions apply.
- **Know your own limits.** Be sure your boating skills and experience are equal to the river or lake conditions.
- **NEVER BOAT ALONE.**
- Know how to recognize hypothermia in the cold, and heat exhaustion and dehydration in hot weather.
- **Dress appropriately for conditions.** Reduce the threat of injury by wearing protective head and footwear.
- **Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it.** Learn or review first aid and CPR techniques.
- Never run through rapid water unless you can see and access a clear path through it, and other boats are cleared from the area.
- **NEVER SWIM IN THE RIVER.** If you fall in, keep your toes above the water, feet (and boat) in front of you and heading downstream. In a lake, always stay with your craft.

More Tips for Safe Boating

- **Never boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol.**
- **Stay away from dams and other under water structures such as water intake and sewage pipes. Find portage around these obstacles.**
- **You must wear and fasten your life jacket, not just have it in the boat.**
- **Keep equipment in a waterproof bag tied to your craft so you don't lose it if your craft tips over.**
- **There are hidden dangers under the waters, such as fallen trees, seaweed, etc.** These can cause watercraft to tip, or a person to be trapped and drown.
- **When in doubt, stop, scout the water for hazards before you continue.**
- **It's easy to get confused about your location when on the water. Keep track of common landmarks such as launch sites or parks, and how far away you are from them. It may take emergency crews a lengthy time to find you from land. Know and use survival skills until they arrive.**

Where Do I Get Information

There are plenty of great web sites to get information about current river, lake, and weather conditions, but you must know how to use this information safely. Remember that conditions on our local lakes and rivers can change at any given moment and many people have found themselves in trouble because of their failure to know the facts. The following are links to web resources that local boaters can use. And remember...

When in doubt, stop and scout.

EES- www.highwater.org

USGS- <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/rt>

NYS Boating Laws- <http://www.usps.org/localusps/rochester>

Nat'l Weather - www.ert.noaa.gov/er/bgm

River Friends tips- www.chemungriverfriends.org/boating.php