



Boating Safety

In South Carolina, boating is a popular activity. With more than 500,000 registered boats, there are many rules and recommendations to follow to stay safe.

Rules and Regulations

In SC, it is the law for boaters **younger than 16 years old** to pass an approved boater education course before operating a boat with a motor greater than 15 hp unsupervised.

Follow all buoys and navigation aids. Navigation rules are the driving rules of the water. Always obey directions given by SCDNR, US Coast Guard, and other law enforcement personnel.

BOATING TIPS

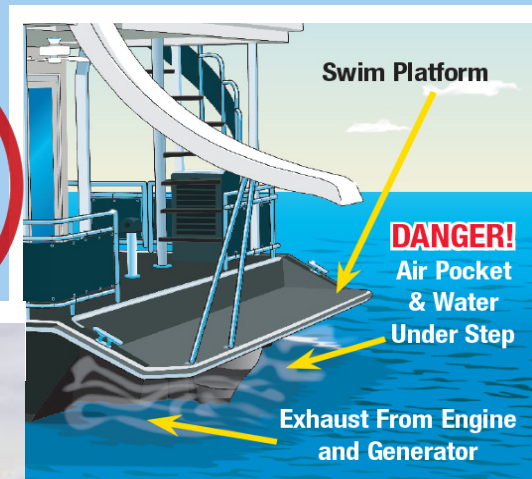
BEFORE

- Provide everyone on board with a properly fitted, US Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- Keep a fire extinguisher onboard in case of a fire.
- Install a CO alarm on board where people may sleep (CO can leak into the cabin).
- Have a first-aid kit in case of a medical emergency.
- Make sure your boat/equipment are in good working condition.
- Make a float plan and leave it with at least one person on land.
- Check the weather before and during the trip. Weather patterns can change suddenly.



DURING

- Do not use alcohol/drugs while operating a boat. Boating under the influence is dangerous and illegal.
- Keep an eye out for other boats. Failing to keep a sharp lookout is the most common cause of collisions.
- Maintain a safe speed and watch for wake zones.
- Be aware of swimmers near the boat.



FIRE SAFE
South Carolina



A COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

Staying safe while boating is important. By using the proper equipment and following the rules of the water, you can make sure that your boating experience stays afloat.