

ARIZONA BOATING SAFETY GUIDE



Boating in Arizona provides a great opportunity to explore the state's picturesque lakes and rivers. Prioritizing safety is crucial to ensuring a fun and secure experience on the water. Here are some important boating safety tips and rules for Arizona boaters.

LIFE JACKETS ARE ESSENTIAL

It's mandatory under Arizona law for every individual on a boat to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Children under 12 must wear life jackets at all times when the boat is moving. Life jackets should fit snugly and be in good repair to provide proper safety.

WEATHER AWARENESS

Always check the weather forecast prior to boating and watch for signs of impending bad weather, such as dark clouds or strong winds. At the first sign of thunderstorms or other severe conditions, it's crucial to head to shore immediately to avoid the dangers of lightning and high winds.

SOBER BOATING

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and significantly reduces your reaction time and judgment. Ensure that the designated boat operator remains sober to maintain control and safety at all times.

CREATE A FLOAT PLAN

Always tell someone about your plans, including where you are going and when you expect to return. Your float plan should include details such as the boat type, who is with you, and your intended route. This plan is vital for emergency situations to help rescuers locate you quickly.

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Conduct a thorough check of your boat to ensure the engine, fuel, and electrical systems are functioning properly. Also, inspect safety equipment like fire extinguishers and distress signals. Having a checklist can ensure all critical items are reviewed before departure.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

Navigation lights and sound-producing devices are mandatory for both types of vessels. Motorized boats also need proper ventilation systems and backfire flame arrestors to prevent fires.

CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS AND ENVIRONMENT

Maintain a safe distance from other vessels and swimmers, and avoid overcrowded areas. Respect wildlife and the natural environment by keeping a distance and disposing of waste properly.

SWIMMING ABILITY

Knowing how to swim is beneficial, but wearing a life jacket is essential regardless of your swimming skills, as open water conditions can be unpredictable.

NAVIGATING WITH BUOYS

Understanding the meanings of different buoy markers is crucial for safe navigation and avoiding submerged hazards.

BOAT CAPACITY AND STABILITY

Avoid overloading your boat to prevent capsizing. Secure all cargo to ensure even weight distribution and stability during the voyage.

SAFE CONDUCT

Remain seated while the boat is in motion to maintain stability. Be cautious around the propeller, ensuring it is clear before starting the engine and turning it off when people are swimming nearby.

DRESS AND HYDRATION

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather, apply sunscreen, and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, especially on hot days.

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A basic knowledge of first aid is crucial for handling potential injuries. Consider taking a certified course to better prepare for any situations that may arise.

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

Enroll in a boating safety course to learn essential safety practices, navigation rules, and emergency handling techniques.

STAY CALM IN EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, keeping calm is vital. Use your prepared resources to call for help and follow safety protocols.



BOATING ON ARIZONA LAKES

Whether you're looking for high-speed boating, peaceful paddling, or prime fishing spots, Arizona's lakes cater to every type of water enthusiast. Here's more on some of the popular lakes in Arizona, as well as some boating rules that are specific to each location.

BOAT SAFETY GEAR LIST

FOR ALL BOATS

LIFE JACKETS (PFDS)

Required for each person on board, with specific rules for children.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Must be marine-rated and functional for emergencies.

WHISTLE OR HORN

Used for signaling in emergencies and to prevent collisions.

VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS (FLARES)

Necessary for signaling in distress situations.

FIRST AID KIT

Equipped with basic medical supplies for on-water injuries.

ANCHOR

Used to stabilize the boat in various situations.

PADDLE OR OAR

Backup for maneuvering if the engine fails.

MARINE RADIO OR CELL PHONE

Essential for communication, particularly in remote areas.

ADDITIONAL FOR MOTORIZED BOATS:

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

Required for visibility at night or in poor visibility conditions.

VENTILATION SYSTEM

Prevents gas vapor accumulation in fuel areas.

BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTOR

Safety feature for inboard engines to prevent fires.

SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICE

Used for making efficient signals to alert other vessels.

FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKIS):

SAFETY LANYARD (KILL SWITCH)

Stops the engine automatically if the rider falls off.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Small, marine-rated device for handling fires.

SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICE

For signaling in case of emergency or to communicate.

BOATING RULES

Before heading out, familiarize yourself with Arizona's specific boating regulations, which cover speed limits, right-of-way rules, and area-specific regulations. Complying with these rules helps prevent accidents and avoid penalties. Regulations can be found online or obtained from local boating authorities.

BOAT ACCIDENT LAWYER

Dealing with injuries from a boating accident can be incredibly challenging. You don't have to navigate this difficult time alone. If you or someone close to you has been impacted, the personal injury attorneys at Perez Law Group, PLLC are ready to support you. We're committed to explaining your rights and guiding you through your legal options. Our goal is to fight for the compensation you deserve, allowing you to concentrate on your recovery while we handle the legal details. To begin, contact Perez Law Group, PLLC today. You can reach us by calling **(602) 730-7100** or by visiting our website at perezlawgroup.com to schedule your consultation.

Questions About Boating Safety?
Call (602) 730-7100