



14 MAY 2025  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 015/25

Subj: 2025 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

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1. Since 1958, the President has proclaimed the week prior to Memorial Day weekend as National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). This year NSBW is from Saturday, May 17, 2025, through Friday May 23, 2025. Boating remains a highly popular, relatively safe, and memory-creating form of outdoor recreation. Preventing loss of life and damage is nonetheless a goal we all share, and we ask you to take precautions and encourage others to do so to make boating as safe as possible. The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) and the CG Auxiliary work extensively with the States and the recreational boating safety community on efforts to encourage model boating behavior. To become familiar with these efforts please visit: <https://www.uscgboating.org/>

2. The six most important things you can do:

- a. Wear a life jacket,
- b. Educate yourself through knowledge and skills-based training,
- c. Wear your engine cut-off switch link,
- d. Abstain from using alcohol while underway,
- e. Register your Beacon, and
- f. Get a free vessel safety check from the USCG Auxiliary at: <https://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>

3. Please read ALCOAST 218/25, NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK, for more information about NSBW and what you can do to help. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience. "Please boat safely."

4. Internet release is authorized.

Respectfully,  
CAPT B. R. Schmadeke  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

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\*\*\*For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA.\*\*\*

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\*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX  
ALAUX](#)

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If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email [CGAUX@uscg.mil](mailto:CGAUX@uscg.mil).

R 131730Z MAY 25 MID120001931012U  
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC  
TO ALCOAST  
BT

UNCLAS

ALCOAST 218/25

SSIC 16210

SUBJ: NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

A. Recreational Boating Statistics, COMDTPUB P16754.37

B. Elijah Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020,  
Section 8316

C. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 291558Z APR 25/ALCOAST 202/25

1. National Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is Friday, 16 May, and  
National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is Saturday, 17 May, through  
Friday, 23 May. The six most important things you can do:

- a. Wear a life jacket,
- b. Educate yourself through knowledge and skills-based training,
- c. Wear your engine cut-off switch link,
- d. Abstain from using alcohol while underway,
- e. Register your Beacon, and
- f. Get a free vessel safety check from the USCG Auxiliary at:

(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>

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been designated NSBW. Boating remains a highly popular,  
relatively safe, and memory-creating form of outdoor recreation.  
Preventing loss of life and damage is nonetheless a goal we all  
share, and I ask you to take precautions and encourage others to  
do so to make boating as safe as possible. COMDT (CG-BSX) works  
extensively with the States and the recreational boating safety  
community on efforts to encourage model boating behavior.  
To become more familiar with these efforts please visit:

(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://www.uscgboating.org>

3. Per REF (A), 75% of boating fatalities were drownings, and 87%  
of those were victims that were not wearing life jackets. Please  
encourage and incentivize life jacket wear (2024 statistics  
will be released in June). Just like seatbelt wear, you never know  
when you will need it, but when you do, it's critical. Most states  
require life jacket wear by children. For adults, an inflatable life  
jacket is not cumbersome and easy to don. REF (A), the 2023  
Recreational Boating Statistics, may be found at:

(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/statistics/>

4. Boater Education makes a difference. Our statistics show that 75%  
of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator did not receive  
safety instruction. Applicable state boating education requirements

may be found by visiting the state boating law section at:  
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/regulations/state-boating-laws.php>

5. Wearing an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) link became a requirement in most situations when REF (B) modified 46 U.S.C. Section 4312. Specific circumstances when ECOS link wear is required, frequently asked questions, and supporting information may be found at:  
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-devices.php>

6. New fire extinguisher regulations for recreational vessels took effect on April 20, 2022. These regulations do not change the number of fire extinguishers required onboard. Per these regulations, owners of recreational vessels are now relieved from certain inspection, maintenance, and record keeping requirements. A series of frequently asked questions and supporting information may be found at:  
(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/fire-extinguisher-faq.php>

7. Alcohol consumption remains the single greatest contributing factor in recreational boating fatalities. Last year, 17% of deaths involved alcohol. We believe these numbers may be under reported, since data from NHTSA on alcohol involvement in motor vehicle deaths is higher. Please encourage sober boating on our Nation's waters. Per REF (C), if you are an operational unit, please participate in Operation Dry Water (ODW) which takes place July 4-6.

8. During National Safe Boating Week, all Coast Guard units and commands are encouraged to participate in activities and special events that highlight safe boating. Units are encouraged to collaborate with their District Recreational Boating Safety Specialists, while planning National Safe Boating Week public outreach strategies and events such as Sector and Station open houses, and Auxiliary involvement.

9. POC: Tom Dardis, COMDT (CG-BSX-2) at: (571) 607-7393 or [Thomas.J.Dardis@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.J.Dardis@uscg.mil).

10. RADM Wayne R. Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG-5P), sends.

11. Internet release is authorized.