

Boat & Lake Safety



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LIFE JACKETS



If your family owns a boat, or you enjoy boating with others, there are several special precautions that need to be taken.

- Coast Guard regulations require that children always wear a life jacket on a boat
- Test Your Life Jacket -- please be aware that many life jackets will float your child in a face down position -- so test your life jacket before going out on the water

SUPERVISION

- Lakes and rivers can be especially dangerous because of their dark and sometimes fast-moving water, therefore effective supervision of your child anytime he is around the dock, river or lake is especially critical

BOW RIDING

- Do not allow small children to ride in the front of the boat while the boat is moving, uncontrollable wake can propel a child from the boat

TOWING

- When towing children and/or adults in pairs, use the rule when one falls, everyone falls. You never know when someone might be injured in the water

CELL PHONE

- Always remember to bring a phone on the boat and place it in a designated spot. Will you remember to take it out of your pocket if you have to go in for an emergency? If you often go farther out, you may need to consider a satellite phone.

Keeping it safe around the DOCK

1. Paint or tape a brightly colored 'do not cross' line on that dock at least 2-3 feet from the edge of the dock, and teach your child that they should never cross that line without a parent
2. Dock pylons are often covered in algae or barnacles and it can be impossible to hold on if they fall
3. in the water. Instead install a PVC piping on the pylons of the dock so there is something for your child to hold onto if he/she falls into the water
4. Keep your dock well illuminated
5. Remove submerged debris from around the dock
6. Make periodic hive, nest and habitat checks for ants, wasps, bees, snakes, spiders, etc. Getting
7. stung on the dock can be more dangerous than being stung near home
6. Install an alarm or horn on your dock. Teach the sound of it to your neighbors and learn theirs too.
8. Never ignore a dog barking on a dock
9. Keep old fishing lines, unused ropes and other discarded items free from under the dock. Getting tangled in these is like trying to swim through a drift net

EDUCATE YOUR CHILD

Teach your child survival swimming skills. Infants as young as 6 months can learn to Rollback-to-Float providing valuable moments. Children as young as 1 year can learn to Swim-Float-Swim to safety.

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