



Boating

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Get on board with life jackets

- [Wearing a PFD is now compulsory](#) for all occupants when in an open area of the following vessels, while underway:
 - Power driven vessels up to and including 4.8 metres (m) in length and Personal Watercraft (PWC)
 - Canoes, kayaks, rowing boats
 - Off-the-beach sailing yachts, pedal boats and fun boats
 - Recreational tenders

- A PFD must also be worn by all occupants of the following vessels at times of "heightened risk" when occupants are in an open area of a vessel which is under way:
 - Yachts (including monohull, trailerable and multihull yachts. Excludes off-the-beach yachts)
 - Power driven vessels greater than 4.8m but less than 12m

- "Heightened risk" means:
 - When crossing an ocean bar
 - When boating alone
 - When operating at night or in restricted visibility
 - When the vessel is a yacht without safety barriers or safety harnesses in use
 - When the vessel may capsize or be swamped or when occupants are at risk of falling overboard
 - When operating in an area where a gale, storm or severe thunderstorm warning or severe weather warning issued by the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) is current

Trip preparation

- Properly maintain your vessel, engine and [safety equipment](#)

- [Check the marine weather report](#)
- Ensure you have sufficient fuel and reserve fuel
- [Inform a person of your trip intentions](#)
- A [boat licence](#) is required to operate a recreational boat in Victoria

Safe Operation

- Vessels are required to maintain a maximum speed of 5 knots when:
 - Within 50m of swimmers, other vessels and fixed or floating structures
 - Within 100m of Divers/Divers' flag
 - Within 50m of water's edge (inland)
 - Within 200m of water's edge (Coastal and Enclosed)
- Don't Drink and Boat
 - .00 Blood Alcohol Limit applies for under 21 and supervisor
 - .05 Blood Alcohol Limit applies for over 21
- Maintain a good lookout and operate at a safe speed

Emergency Procedures

- All occupants to put on PFDs
- Raise the alarm using:
 - Marine Radio - 27MHz - Ch 88, VHF - Ch 16
 - Phone - 000
 - Flares
 - EPIRB
- Stay with your boat
 - a vessel is a lot easier to spot than a swimmer
 - anchor your boat to maintain position if safe to do so

Marine Safety Victoria Safe Boating Program

The [Safe Boating Program](#) is designed to educate boaters and other waterway users of their operational and behavioural responsibilities by establishing face-to-face contact with operators. This may occur on the water, at the boat ramp, at a boating safety expo or show or by conducting lectures and talks around the State.

Marine Safety Victoria's Boating Safety Officers conduct these programs which are designed to assist Victoria's recreational boaters by:

- providing expert safety advice

- conducting boat safety equipment checks
- establishing face-to-face contact with the boater.

For further information contact Marine Safety Victoria on 1800 223 022

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