

EDUCATION



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In a number of our courses and seminars, it is noted that when you are the Captain the boat's operation is your responsibility. This is true whether the boat is yours or someone else's.

As Captain of the boat make sure it is appropriately equipped! Check the following before leaving the dock (a laminated checklist may be helpful)!

- Boat registration & number on the bow
- Life preservers
- Anchor & rode
- Throwable float (immediately available)
- Fire extinguisher
- Distress signaling and sound producing devices
- Navigation lights
- First aid kit
- VHF radio (recommended if not required)
- Other requirements specific to the boat size/type

The number of life preservers must be enough for all on board and they must be appropriate for the type of boat and operating area. They also must be in good serviceable shape and easily accessible – be sure all crew know where they are stored.

Before leaving the dock, be sure to check the fuel level. The rule of thumb is one third is to get there and a third to get back while the last third is in reserve. Is the fuel on board is enough for the trip, where can you refuel along the way?

Finally be sure to check the area charts, weather and the tides before leaving the dock. Keep “an eye to the sky” to observe changing clouds and wind conditions

while enroute. If the trip is into a new area it is good to plan to go on a rising tide
– a rising tide will refloat grounded boats!

Remember that the Captain has the bottom line responsibility!