

STUDY GUIDE FOR SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. Drinking alcohol before or while operating a vessel slows your judgement and reaction time.
2. The personal watercraft operator, all passengers and anyone being towed behind the personal watercraft must wear a life jacket.
3. When returning from open sea, you always keep the red buoy on your right side. Always remember: Red, Right, Returning.
4. Weaving back and forth in between boats, swerving at the last minute and jumping a boat wake are all examples of reckless operation.
5. Florida law prohibits anyone under the age of 14 from operating a personal watercraft.
6. In Florida, it is illegal to operate any vessel at a speed that endangers the life and/or property of another person.
7. If the engine shuts off while operating a personal watercraft, you will lose the ability to steer and the vessel will continue to move in the direction you were going.
8. According to Florida law, a whistle or horn must be aboard all vessels.
9. The engine cutoff switch (kill switch) lanyard is important for the operator to wear because it is required by law.
10. A child under the age of 6 must wear a life jacket while on a boat less than 26 feet in length.
11. You must keep a safe distance from other vessels while operating a personal watercraft.
12. Any person born on or after January 1, 1988, who is operating a vessel of 10 HP or greater, must have proof of boating safety education.
13. Since personal watercrafts are small and fast they can be difficult to see in the water.
14. If you let off of the throttle control, you will lose the ability to steer the personal watercraft.
15. The purpose of the safety lanyard on the vessel is to shut the engine off if the operator falls over board.
16. Proof of boating education and photo identification must be carried on board the vessel if you were born on or after January 1, 1988.
17. The first indicator of bad weather approaching is the buildup of dark clouds.
18. Red and green markers indicate the edge of a channel.
19. Some examples of operating defensively are staying alert to other vessels, keeping a safe distance between you and other vessels and operating at safe speeds.
20. If two vessels are operating too close to each other and they collide and one person gets hurt, the other operator must help the injured person and report the accident.
21. The primary cause of boating fatalities is falling overboard and drowning.
22. When crossing paths, it is the give-way vessels responsibility to slow down or change course.
23. When you are in a speed zone posted as "slow speed, minimum wake" your vessel should be completely settled in the water.

24. If you see a boat approaching on your right hand side, you should slow down and give way to the boat. THE VESSEL ON THE RIGHT ALWAYS HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY!
25. You do not have to report an accident if the damages are less than \$1,000.00 and no one needed medical attention.
26. Anticipating possible situations before they occur, realizing that personal watercraft take time to stop and knowing that you need the throttle to steer the personal watercraft are all ways to avoid having a collision.
27. Staying alert is the most critical part of boating to avoid a collision.
28. If you approach a vessel in a head on situation, both vessels should stay to the right.
29. If someone stops abruptly in front of you, you must use the throttle to turn and avoid a collision.
30. Constant awareness is required on all boats at all hours.
31. If your vessel is being passed or overtaken by another vessel, you should maintain your speed and direction.
32. If you happen to flip your personal watercraft over, you should roll it back over as shown on the label on the rear of the watercraft.
33. The breath alcohol level a boater would be considered "under the influence" in Florida is .08.
34. When you see a red flag with a white diagonal strip (divers down flag), you must slow to idle speed if you come within 100 FT. of the flag in a channel and 300 FT. in open water.
35. When boating in shallow areas or sea grass and you see a mud trail where your wake has churned up the bottom, you should stop your vessel and pole or walk it out of the area.
36. YOU MUST ALWAYS STAY AT LEAST 200 FEET FROM ALL OTHER VESSELS!