

ALASKA BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM SAFE BOATING WEEK 2016

ALASKA'S BOATING FATALITIES

- **9 of 10** were not wearing a life jacket, or were never found
- **5 of 6** followed a capsizing, swamping, or fall overboard, into Alaska's cold water
- **9 of 10** adult males
- **9 of 10** boats under 26 feet in length
- **3 of 4** powerboats

Without a life jacket, DROWNING kills long before hypothermia does, regardless of swimming ability.

Wearing a life jacket may be the single most important factor in surviving sudden cold water immersion. ALWAYS wear a life jacket when in an open boat, or when on an open deck.

MORE KEY SAFETY POINTS FOR ALASKA'S BOATERS

- Carry emergency communication and distress signaling devices on your person
- Attach the engine cut-off device when underway, especially when operating solo
- Equip the boat with at least one re-boarding device
- Respect small boat instability. Don't overload. Balance and secure items for conditions, with passengers seated when underway
- NEVER drink alcohol and operate a boat
- Be prepared to wait out bad weather
- Keep boat well maintained
- Before each trip:
 - Complete a pre-departure check
 - File a float plan
 - Brief passengers on emergency equipment and how to stop, start, and steer the boat
- Take boating safety classes

ABOUT THE PLEDGE TO LIVE CAMPAIGN

- GOAL: Increase life jacket wear by Alaskan boaters, particularly adult males
- The pledge concept is a call to action. MAKE THEM PROMISE
- Statewide in scope
- PledgetoLive.org is a boater's resource with a trip planner, electronic float plans, life jacket selector tool, and more!



www.alaskaboatingsafety.org

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