

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Power boaters can avoid inconvenience and potential danger by taking a few minutes before departure to check the following:

- Life jackets worn by each person (proper size & fit, & fastened)
- Communication & signaling devices carried ON person
- Throwable Type IV flotation device attached to floating line
- Fire extinguisher(s) fully charged & mounted securely
- Ability to make an efficient sound signal (horn or whistle)
- USCG-approved visual distress signals (check expiration dates)
- Boat registration current, properly displayed & certificate onboard
- Drain plugs installed, thru hull fittings leak-free, sea cocks closed
- Hoses/clamps, drive units/props, fuel lines/filters, blowers/backfire flame arrestors (inboards) inspected
- Scuppers clear, bilge clean
- Battery fully charged, secured, terminals covered
- Back-up manual bailing device(s) accessible & functional
- Back-up propulsion source (spare engine, sail, paddles or oars)
- Tools/parts; spare batteries, fuses, spark plugs, belts, prop & prop nut
- Anchors (2), each with chain & line, one attached to boat
- Food, water, spare clothing and shelter (tent/tarp) in waterproof bag
- Reboarding devices (foot sling, swim step, ladder)
- First aid kit
- Navigation tools; GPS, compass, charts, maps, tide book
- Fuel & oil sufficient for trip — 1/3 out, 1/3 return, 1/3 spare
- Test engines, emergency cut-off cable, steering, gear shift & lights
- Emergency Locator Beacons, radios & other electronics functioning
- Weather, forecast update and observations
- Passengers/load distributed properly, items secured from shifting
- Float plan prepared and transmitted to responsible party
- Passenger briefing — how to start/stop & steer boat, clothing check, location of & how to use communications & emergency equipment

EMERGENCIES:

VHF RADIO CHANNEL 16, PHONE *CG or 911

www.alaskaboatingsafety.org

