

General Boating Knowledge

“Common Sense before leaving shore”

Safety check

- Engines work, battery charged, hull, tires, drain plug, etc
- Safety equipment
 - example - Life jackets fit correctly for everyone on board



Fuel

Rule of thumb;

- 1/3 there
- 1/3 back
- 1/3 spare.



***Know how much fuel you use!!!

Marine Weather Conditions

- VHF weather channel (WX)
- Environment Canada website
- Phone Coast Guard weather Comox 339-0748



Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

Canada

Weatheroffice
www.weatheroffice.gc.ca

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Warnings

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Bella Bella
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Blue River
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Cache Creek

Go



Trip Plans

give a responsible person;

- verbally where you are going and time back (short trips)
- in writing where you are going, route you are following and when you will be coming back (long trips).

Trip Plan

Filing a Trip Plan before you head out is a recommended procedure. The Trip Plan should be left with a responsible person and updated as the trip progresses and plans change to avoid

unnecessary search and rescue emergency calls. An up-to-date Trip Plan can aid in search and rescue efforts if they are needed.

Trip Plan

Owner's Name _____ Tel. Number _____ Cell Phone _____
Owner's Address _____
Vessel Name and Number _____ Power ____ Sail ____
Size & Type _____ Colour: Hull _____ Deck _____ Cabin _____
Type of Engine _____ Other Distinguishing Features _____
Radio Channels Monitored HF _____ VHF _____ MF _____
Safety Equipment On Board: Life Raft (colour) _____ Dinghy (colour) _____
Number & Type of Flares, _____ & Lifejackets / PFDs _____
Other _____
Search & Rescue Phone Number _____
Date of Departure _____ Time of Departure _____ Estimated Arrival _____
Leaving From _____ Heading To _____ Proposed Route _____
Stop Over _____ Stop Over _____ Stop Over _____
Number of Persons on Board _____ Other _____

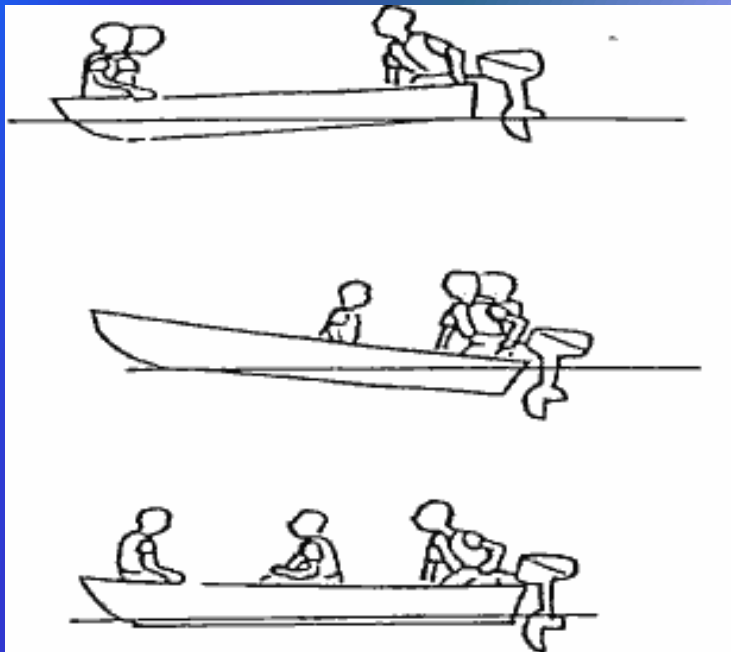
Inform Guests

- give a basic tour of the boat (safety equipment located, life jackets, how to operate, etc)



Loading a small boat

- Distribute the weight evenly, especially in small boats



Steps to filling gas

1. secure boat
2. turn engine off
3. get people ashore
4. extinguish open flames
5. no smoking
6. electrical equipment off
7. ports and hatches closed
8. portable tanks ashore
9. hole nozzle AGAINST filler pipe to prevent sparks
10. don't overfill
11. wipe spillage
12. open up ports and hatches and run blower for at least 4 minutes
13. smell for fumes



PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Be prepared for the unexpected. Check this list before every trip.

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LifeJackets and PFDs – Wear Them!

- Carry a Canadian-approved lifejacket or PFD of the proper size, for each person on board.
- Make sure they are in good condition (check the zippers, buckles, fabric, seams, etc.).

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Operator Competency – Are You Ready to Head Out on the Water?

- Take a boating safety course.
- Always carry your Pleasure Craft Operator Card or other proof of competency on board.

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Weather – Check and Monitor the Marine Weather Forecast

☐

Sail Plan – File Your Plan Before Heading Out

- Use the sample [sail plan](#) in this guide.
- Tell a person you trust where you are going and when you will be back.

☐

Safety Equipment – Required by Law and Essential for Safety

- See equipment required for your boat.
- Make sure all equipment is on board, in good working order and easy to reach.
- Carry a first aid kit, basic tools and spare parts.

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Charts, Compass and Local Hazards – Know Where You Are at All Times

- Make sure you are aware of all local hazards, water levels and tides.

☐

Fuel – Check Your Tank and Remember:

- 1/3 to go, 1/3 to return, 1/3 reserve.

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Boat Condition – Should Your Boat Leave the Dock?

- Check the hull for cracks or other damage.
- Check the electrical, fuel, propulsion and cooling systems.
- Make sure the throttle and steering work well.
- Check the oil.
- Check all hoses and lines for leaks or cracks, and replace if necessary.
- Make sure all clamps and belts are secure and in good shape.
- Inspect, clean and replace spark plugs if necessary.
- Check and change oil and water filters if needed.
- Check the battery's charge.
- Make sure the drainage plug is in place.
- Carry spare plugs for all through hull fittings.
- Make sure the load on your boat (gear and people) is well distributed.
- Run the blowers for four minutes before starting the engine(s) and check for airflow.

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Safety Briefing – You Are Legally Responsible for Your Guests

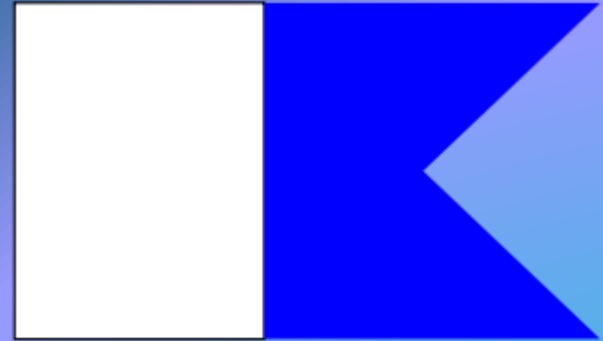
- Show everyone where you keep the safety equipment and explain how to use it.
- Make sure the communication equipment works and everyone knows how to use it.

General Boating Knowledge

“Common Sense on the water”

Divers in water

- boat must display Blue & White International Flag “A” (Alpha)
- When divers are in the water a Red with Diagonal White striped buoy is used to locate the area where they are.



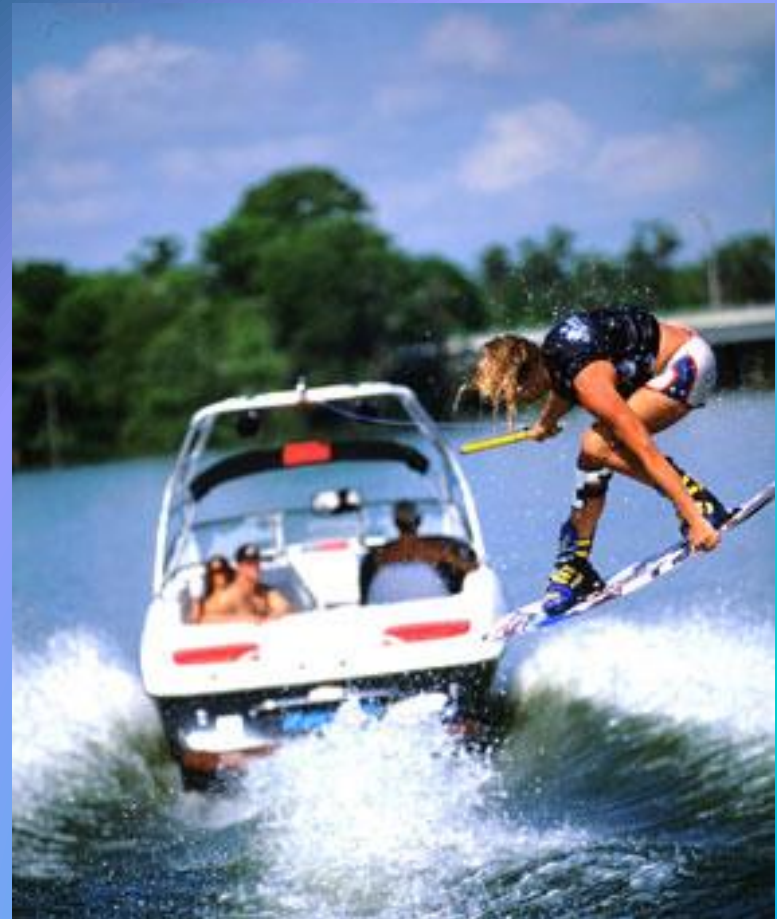
Speed Limits

- Close to shore 10 km
 - slow
- Narrow river, canals, harbours – slow



Towing someone (Wakeboard, Tubing)

- minimum 2 people in boat, 1 driver, 1 spotter



Getting help – if needed

- Wave arms
- Flares
- VHF radio (channel 16)
- cell phone (only in populated areas)



Helping Others



- Legally you must stop to help others.
- Only exception – putting yourself at risk.

Accidents (Reporting)

- You stop, give name and address, and offer assistance.
- Report it to the police



Poor weather/Fog

- Slow down, life jackets on, lights on and switch to full fuel tank



Capsizing/sinking



- Radio for help if possible (mayday 3 times – name, description, location, problem), life jackets on, stay with boat if possible

Engine Failure

- #1 cause – no fuel
- poor maintenance
- overheating – faulty impeller or debris over water intake



General Boating Knowledge

“Common Sense on the water ”

Continued

Anchoring



Attach to a secure place on the bow (cleat) especially in rough water or high current area.

Hypothermia

- happens when you are wet (don't have to fall into water)
- early sign – shivering, slurred speech
- intermediate signs – weak pulse, irrational, lack coordination
- final – weak/absent pulse, loss of consciousness
- treatment – shelter from cold, dry clothes, warm slowly. No HOT liquids or alcohol



Basic Navigation Equipment

- compass, charts – most basic and can't fail
- depth sounder, gps, chart plotter – electronic, can fail (dead battery, blown fuse, electrical short, etc)



Understanding Wind Speeds

Light	1 – 21 km	up to 11 knots
Moderate	22 – 36 km	12 - 19 knots
Strong	37 – 62km	20 – 33knots = small craft warning *
Gale	63 – 87km	34 – 47 knots = Gale warning *
Storm	89 – 117km	48 – 63 knots = Storm warning *
Hurricane	over 117km	over 63 knots = Hurricane warning*

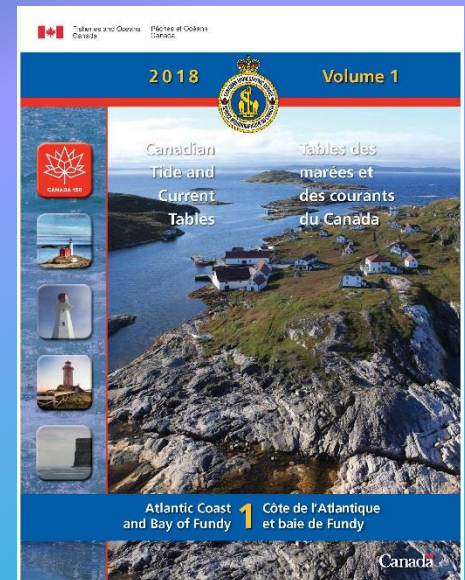
Note: the last 3 are announced on all weather announcements



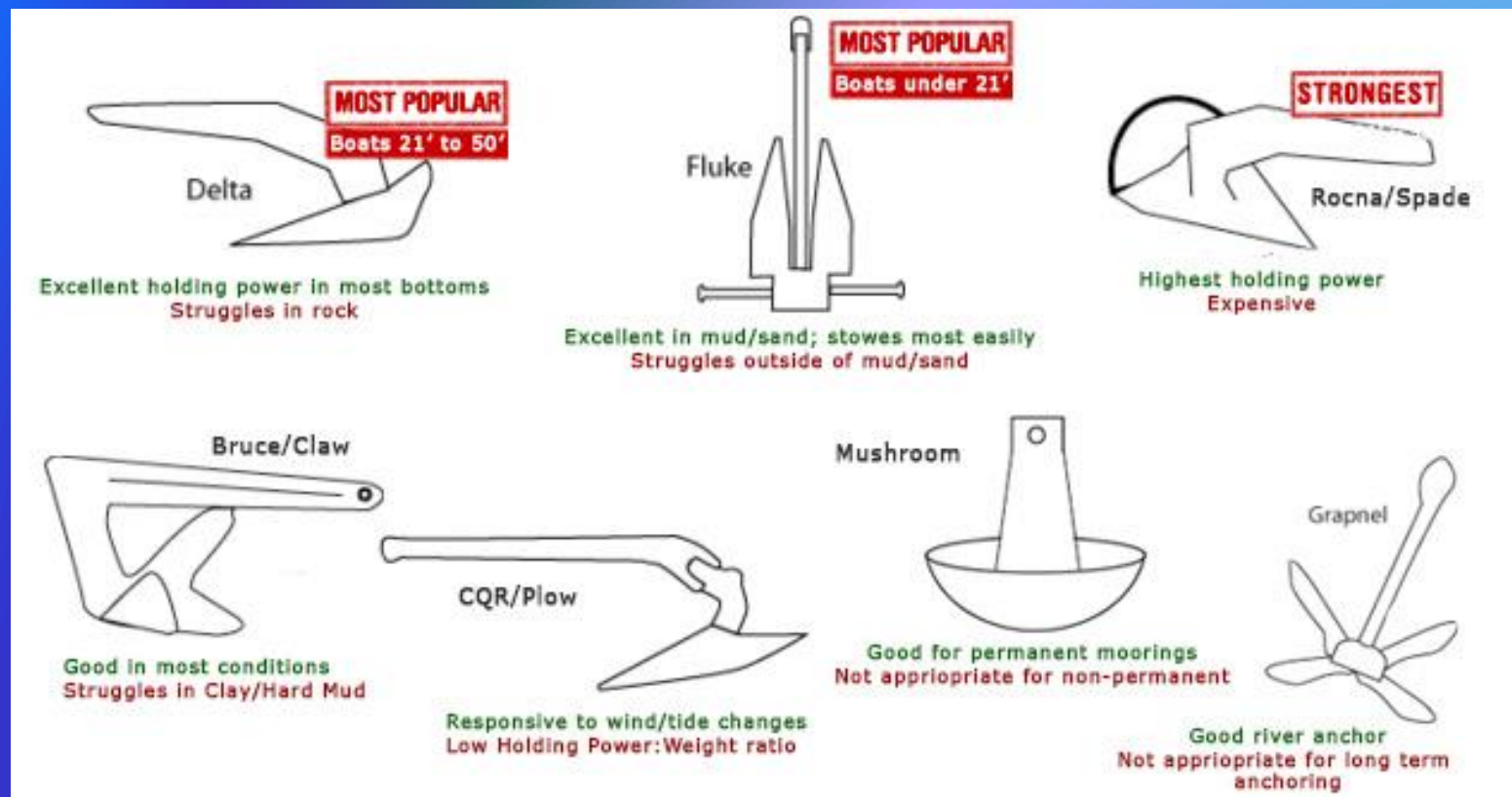
Extra Stuff

“Need to Know”

- **Canadian Tide and current Tables.**
Gives all the tides/currents for marine travel
- **Restricted Operators Certificate (Marine)** needed for ANYONE using a radio



- **Pleasure craft Courtesy Checks**
 - Make sure you have all safety equipment
- **Anchors – different types based on the bottom**



Navigation Lights

- Government/Police boats have a Blue Flashing Light
- All around white light for Anchoring
- Fishing Vessel Lights
 - 2 all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper is red and the lower is white.



Sound Signals

- **One short blast** - I intend to change course to starboard
- **Two short blasts** - I intend to change course to port.
- **Three short Blasts** – I am backing up (astern propulsion)



Carbon monoxide gas

- Produced from any gas burning appliance or engine. Can be fatal in a confined and enclosed space.
- **Symptoms**
 - fatigue
 - nausea
 - headaches
 - dizziness or fainting
 - vomiting



Radar Reflector

- Used on boats that are built of mostly non-metallic materials
- Sometimes cannot be used due to impracticality



Transport Canada

- Approve many things for boating including;
 - PFDs and Life Jackets
 - Distress flares
 - Pleasure Craft Tests
 - etc

- Distress Flares valid four years from the date of manufacture
- Flares should be located within reach and stored vertically in a cool, dry place to keep them in good working condition.

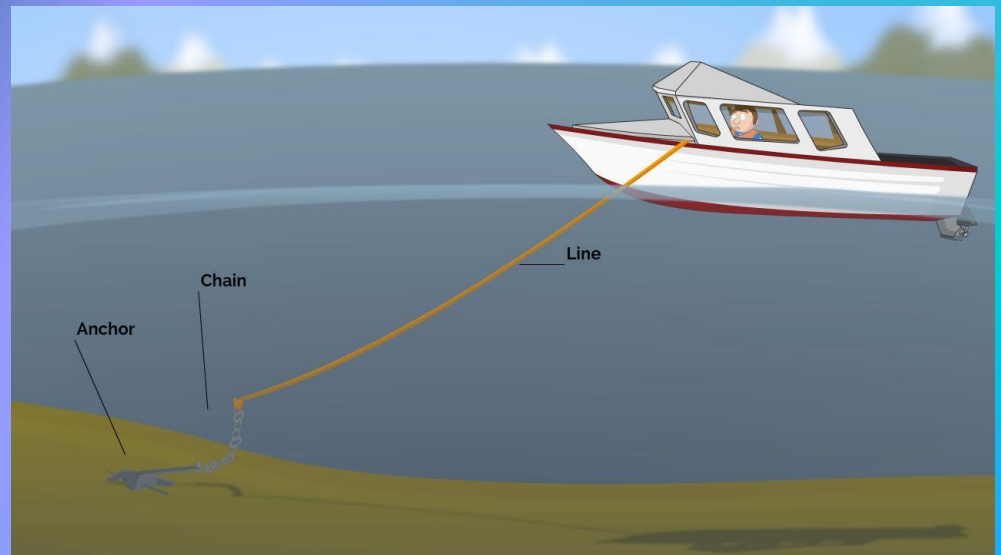


- Magnetic Compass – gives boats heading

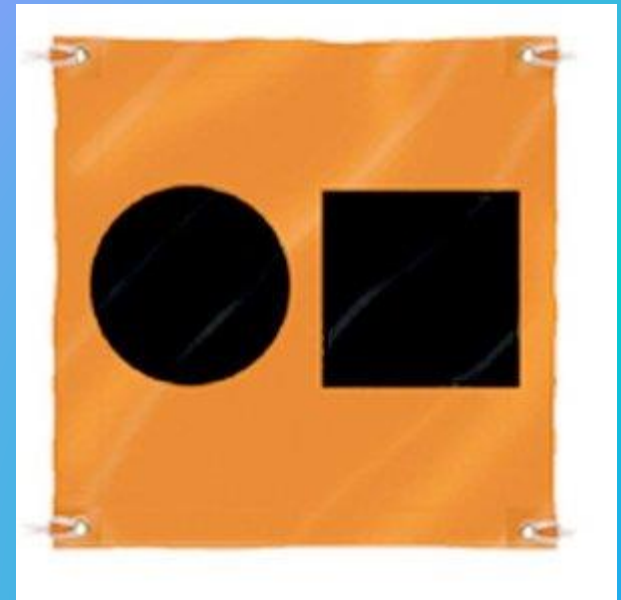


Anchor Line

- minimum length 5 to 10 times the depth of the water when dropping anchor line on a pleasure craft.



Distress Symbols/Flags



- Running aground
 - Check the people onboard to make sure no one is injured.
 - Assess what damage that might have occurred.



- Heat Exhaustion
 - having trouble keeping up with the rest and complaining of dizziness, **muscle cramps**, headache



- **Manual Propelling device**
 - should be accessible and available at any time.



- **Muffler**
 - Every boat equipped with a motor other than a stock (unmodified) outboard engine must have a muffler and use it while operating within five nautical miles (9.26 km) of shore

