



OUR MISSION

The David P. Civile Foundation for Boating Safety Awareness is dedicated to promoting awareness of boating safety, the importance and proper use of Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) and knowledge of environmental factors, such as wind, air and water temperatures. Knowledge through education can save lives. We seek to inform all boaters but with a targeted emphasis on novice boaters using non-motorized recreational crafts, such as kayaks and canoes.

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PADDLE SAFETY RULES

1. Take an on-water paddlesport class for safety, skill development and essential rescue skills before planning a trip.
2. Always wear your US Coast Guard approved life jacket! Attach a whistle or horn.
3. Dress for the weather conditions and be prepared for cold-water immersion. Hypothermia is a serious danger at any time of the year. **Without a PFD in cold water, survival time can be reduced to minutes.**
4. Plan Ahead: Know the water you are paddling. Be aware of **tides** and **dangerous currents** and have a float plan. Tell people where you are going and when you plan to return.
5. Have proper **Safety Kit** gear on board (alarm, light, paddle leash, etc).
6. **Never paddle alone.** A buddy can come to your aid if you get in trouble. New paddlers should paddle with someone more experienced.
7. Learn skills necessary to maneuver **your** boat. Practice how to get out of, hang on to, and re-enter if capsized. Don't overload and keep your balance.
8. Do not exceed your paddling ability. **Know your limits.**
9. Learn to recognize potential hazards and use good judgment to avoid them.
10. Check your equipment **prior** to each use for signs of wear or failure.

For more information, visit

TheDavidPCivileFoundation.org

