

# SAFE BOATING PRACTICES

**ALL BOATERS:** Must stay at least 100 feet from all docks, swimmers, moored boats and swimming beaches except when operating at a slow no-wake speed and when picking up and dropping off water-skiers.

**WATER SKIING:** Skiers should be towed in a counterclockwise direction. In addition to the boat operator, one other person must be in the boat who is capable of communicating with the operator.

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFT:** No wake jumping within 150 feet of the boat making the wake. No weaving in heavy boat traffic or coming unreasonably close to other boats. They must also comply with the rules for all watercraft.

**LIFE JACKETS:** All boats must have a flotation device for each person on board or being towed. Kids less than six must wear a life jacket. Each flotation device must be in good condition, readily available, and the proper size for intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a throwable device such as a floatation seat cushion. There are different requirements for life jackets when boating on the Great Lakes.

**NO TRESPASSING:** Do not trespass on privately owned property, including docks and rafts.

**ALCOHOL/ DRUGS:** It is unlawful to operate a vessel if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**BOATING COURSES:** Boating safety courses are offered by the County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Natural Resources.

**BOATING RULE ENFORCEMENT:** The County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Natural Resource's Conservation Officers are the primary boating rule enforcement agencies.