

Safety Tips and Videos

United States Coast Guard Boating Safety Videos and Resources.



America's Boating Channel and the National Safe Boating Council have resources, videos and tips for safe boating.



Discover Boating has 14 Safe Boating Tips Every Boater Must Follow.



Chicago Harbors Safety Rules

- Swimming is prohibited in any of the Chicago Harbors.
- Children should always wear a life jacket when on docks and promenades. Children should never be left unattended on docks or on a boat.
- No fueling is allowed on docks under any circumstance. Fueling must be done in designated fueling areas.
- No open flames are allowed on docks, no gas or propane tank fueled grills.
- Boaters must adhere to harbor navigational lights when entering and exiting the harbors, reduce your speed, reduce your audio system onboard and honk to notify other boats that may be traveling in the opposite direction. Ensure that you have adequate height clearance when entering any of harbors that have an under-path.
- The harbors are a NO WAKE ZONE, speeds should not exceed 5MPH

Scan the QR code to view the Chicago Park District Code.



CHICAGO
HARBORS

Chicagoharbors.info

BOATER'S RESOURCE GUIDE TO SAFE BOATING IN CHICAGO



chicagoharborsafety.org

LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A Boater's Guide to The Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats and Safety Tips Brochure



The Handbook of Illinois Boating Laws and Responsibilities published by the Illinois DNR



Want to be a better-informed boater? Take the Chicago Harbor Safety Committee's safe boater quiz. Follow the QR code to the home page, click on the resources tab and select "Safe Boater Quiz" to get some great tips on how to safely navigate the Chicago area waterways.



Take a boat safety course

There are plenty of boat safety courses available online and in person.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary offers both in person and virtual classes nationwide. Click on the link below to find a course near you.



The BoatUS Foundation offers boating safety courses and resources for safe boating education.



Various public and private institutions in Illinois teach boating safety courses and issue valid boating licenses and certificates. Some courses are taught online or in-person.

Scan the QR below to view a full list.



ILLDNR Boating/PWC Requirements

In Illinois, persons born on or after January 1, 1998, may operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 10 horsepower (hp) only if they have a valid Boating Safety Certificate accepted by the Department of Natural Resources.

No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat, including personal watercraft (PWC).

Persons at least 12 years old but less than 18 years old may operate a motorized vessel with more than 10 horsepower, including a PWC, only if:

- They complete a boating safety course and possess a Boating Safety Certificate accepted by the Department of Natural Resources or...
- They are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.

Scan below to view the Illinois Department of Natural Resources approved online boating safety courses.

