

SEMSA Health and Safety Zone!

Boating Safety and PFD's



**Saskatchewan
Emergency
Medical
Services
Association**

The leading cause of fatalities in boating accidents is drowning. Therefore, assuring your child knows how to swim and that you, as a parent, know how to select, put on, adjust and use personal flotation devices (PFD'S) is extremely important.

Always wear approved PFD'S. Each approved PFD will have a label specifying the size of person it should be used for. It is important that your PFD be properly sized and adjusted. If the PFD is the wrong size or it is improperly adjusted, it will restrict swimming movements and may even, if it's too large, be dangerous. A child could slip out of his/her PFD and it may not perform in the way it was intended in regards to the wearers body float position. Remember, a personal floatation device cannot help you if you are not wearing it.

There are Provincial and Federal laws that require certain equipment to be carried aboard boats. The equipment may vary, depending on the type of boat in which it is being used eg: canoe, sailboat, powerboat. Check with your local authorities to determine which equipment is required for the type of boat you are using. Be sure all the equipment on your boat is in good working condition and that all occupants of the boat know how to use it.



When a boat is operated on a waterway certain rules must be followed. These are similar to traffic laws while driving an automobile as they are intended to prevent accidents. These rules can be complicated and you should obtain a complete listing from your local authorities. A few rule to follow are:

- Motorboats must give way to manually powered watercraft.
- While your boat is moving it is necessary to know where all other watercraft are.
- Never overload your boat, there should be a capacity rating plate on your boat. This will include information such as maximum size of motor, maximum number of occupants, (calculated in weight) and maximum total carrying capacity of the boat.
- Never operate a boat or tow water skiers near a swimming area.

Our lakes are a big part of Saskatchewan summers.

Enjoy them but enjoy them safely.

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