

LAUNCHING YOUR VESSEL AT RAMPS SAFETY TIPS

- Remember ALL ramps are on an incline.
- Before launching your vessel, make sure all occupants are removed from the vehicle especially children secured in car seats.
- When launching, make sure your vehicle windows are open. If the car should enter the water, electric windows and doors will not open.
- Be aware of the tides when launching your vessel. Watch your footing on the ramps as they may be slippery from algae growth.

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RECREATIONAL VESSEL SAFE BOATING TIPS

- Make sure every vessel has a life jacket for each guest on board. Make sure every life jacket is accessible. Life jacket should fit each person wearing one. Do not put an adult-size life jacket on a child, or a child-size life jacket on an adult.
- Never drink alcohol or be under the influence of drugs while boating. Alcohol is the leading contributor to fatal boating accidents.
- Take a Safe Boating Course.
- Operate your vessel at a safe speed and follow all navigational rules. Have a designated lookout and make sure you know and understand all local rules and laws of waterways.
- Check weather forecasts and keep an eye to the sky. Nationwide, an average of 31 deaths per year occur due to weather related storms and conditions.
- Have a carbon monoxide detector in your cabins or motor hatches. All internal combustion engines emit carbon monoxide that can make you sick in minutes and lead to death. Remember that you cannot smell or taste carbon monoxide - know the symptoms.

- Have a VHF Radio on board. Do not rely on your cell phone. Have all your safety equipment on board - flares, fire extinguisher, sounding device, anchor and line, and make sure all lights are working.
- When rafted up or on anchor, and you or your guests are swimming, have a designated spotter to be on watch.
- Have a plan. Let your friends and loved ones know when you are leaving and plan to return. Let them know your destination.
- If a vessel takes on water, keep nerf balls on board from golf ball size to football size to stop water from rushing in. High water alarms are a great way to know if water is leaking into your barge.



KAYAK & PADDLE BOARD SAFETY TIPS

- Wind and weather conditions can change rapidly. Be prepared and know your limits.
- Avoid heavily trafficked areas like marked channels. You are much safer staying closer to shore where you are less likely to encounter larger vessels.
- Paddle up-wind and up-current first which makes it easier to return to your launching site when you are tired.
- Be especially careful if launching into the Long Island Sound as afternoon breezes from the south can make returning to shore very difficult.
- Choose bright-colored kayaks and life jackets making it easier for other maritime operators to see you.
- Always wear your life jacket while paddling.
- If you capsize, do not leave your kayak or paddle board as it will help you to stay afloat.
- Carry a whistle or sounding device as well as a waterproof flashlight.
- Alert friends and loved ones as to where you are going and when you plan to return.