



The following is a public service announcement for Safe Boating Week: **Monday**

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**...Boating Safety Requirements and Vessel Safety Checks...**

The following is a safe boating message from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources...

Did you know if you were born after January 1, 1989, you are required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft? Anyone is eligible to take a boating safety class. In addition to it being the law, taking a boating safety class can save your life: 4 of 5 people who die in boating accidents on Wisconsin's waters every year haven't had such formal training. Gain the safe boating techniques and knowledge that can keep you safe on the water.

This boating season, make sure you also take advantage of the Vessel Safety Check Program – a free, no risk, service provided in your area by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadron. A qualified vessel examiner will conduct an inspection of all required safety equipment carried or installed on your boat and certain aspects of the boat's overall condition. Even if you pay careful attention to safety, dangerous mechanical problems can crop up on the best maintained boat. That's why the U.S. Coast Guard recommends that all recreational boats, including personal watercraft, get a free vessel safety check each year.

To learn more on boating and water safety, visit the Northeast Wisconsin Safe Boating Website at **[www.weather.gov/grb/?n=boating](http://www.weather.gov/grb/?n=boating)**

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