

# Boat Maryland (BMD) – A Course on Responsible Boating as presented by

Flotilla 23-1 - Annapolis, MD  
USCG Auxiliary 5<sup>th</sup> District Southern Region

## **Lines, knots, hitches & bends**

- Rope Vs Line
- Parts of a Line
- Definition of knot, hitch & bend
- Learn to tie common nautical knots, hitches & bends
  - Bowline - King of Knots
  - Reef / Square Knot
  - Round Turn With Two Half Hitches
  - Fisherman's/Anchor Bend
  - Figure Eight / Stopper Knot
  - Clove Hitch
  - Cleat Hitch

## **Chapter 1- Know Your Boat**

- Vessel Length Classes
- Hull Types & Characteristics
- Parts of a Boat & Terminology
- Propulsion Types & Characteristics
- Personal Watercraft (PWC) Characteristics & Terminology
- Sailboat Characteristics & Terminology

## **Chapter 2 - Before You Get Underway**

- Capacity / Capacity Plate
- Float Plans
- Fueling a Vessel
- Trailers
- Before Leaving Home
- On the Road
- Launching a Vessel
- Retrieving a Vessel
- Boat Ramp Courtesy
- Preventing Theft
- Vessel Maintenance
- Engine Maintenance
- Boating Accessories
- PWC Accessories

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## Chapter 3 - Operating a Boat Safely

- Pre-underway Checklist
- Casting Off
  - Vessel being held to dock
  - Vessel being pushed from dock
- Docking
  - No Wind Or Current
  - Wind Pushing Toward Dock
  - Wind Pushing Away From Dock
  - Approaching With Wind Or Current
- Navigation (NAV) Rules or Rules Of The Road
  - Encountering Other Vessels
    - head-on, crossing & overtaking
    - stand-on / give-way
    - order of precedence
  - Sailboat Rules (Leeward / Windward)
  - Narrow Channels
  - Sound Signals
- Navigation Lights
  - General
  - Recognizing & interpreting patterns
- ATONS - Aids to Navigation, lateral & range markers
  - Red Right Returning
- PTONS – Private Aids to Navigation
- Non-lateral markers, information, restriction & traffic control buoys
- Anchoring
- Dams
- Locks
- Bridges
- Compasses
- Nautical Charts
- Operating a PWC
- Ignition Safety Switches
- Trimming Outboard Engines

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## **Chapter 4 - Legal Requirements of Boating**

- Registration (Boats / Vessels & Trailers)
- Hull Identification Numbers (HIN)
- Legally operating a vessel
- Negligent operation
- Reckless operation
- Federal, State & Local Requirements
  - Free Vessel Safety Checks (VSC)
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Homeland Security
- Lifejackets
  - Types (I, II, III, IV, V) & Characteristics
  - Requirements
- MD Specific Lifejacket Requirements
  - Children under age of 4 or 50 lbs.
  - Children 7 & under
- Fire Extinguishers Types & Requirements
- Backfire Flame Arrestors
- Ventilation Systems
- Mufflers
- Navigation Lights
- Visual Distress Signals
- Sound Signals
- Other Equipment
- PWC specific requirements
- Towing people on skies, water boards, tubes, etc.
- Waste, Oil and Trash
- Nuisance Species
- Boating Accidents
- Law Enforcement

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## **Chapter 5 - Boating Emergencies, What To Do**

- Boating Fatalities (typical characteristics)
- Risks (causes & management)
  - Boating Stressors
  - Dehydration
  - Alcohol
- Mitigating risks of mishap / accident
- Mitigating risks of Drowning
- Rescue Techniques
- BOATING ACCIDENTS
- Capsizing
- Swamping
- Falling Overboard
- Person in-the-water procedures & retrieval
- Tips for small craft operators
- Fire Emergencies
- Running Aground
- Hypothermia
  - Boating Smart from the Start
  - Delaying onset
  - H.E.L.P.
- Over Exposure to Sun / Dehydration
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Other Serious Injuries
- Weather Emergencies
- Caught on-the-water in Foul Weather
- Summoning Help

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## **Waterway Watch**

- Operator responsibilities, obligations and liability
- Tell them where the life jackets are!

## **USCG Auxiliary – Brief Introduction & Invitation**

- Operator responsibilities, obligations and liability
- Tell them where the life jackets are!

## **Chapter 6 - Enjoying Water Sports**

- preventing trailer & vessel theft
- vessel owner / operator responsibilities, obligations and liability
  - passengers
  - others operators
- good practices & guidelines
  - Lifejackets
  - Operating vessel and radio
  - Emergency procedures
- others operating your PWC
- costal bays
- non-native species
- protecting & preserving the environment
- boat ramp courtesy & etiquette
- PWC courtesy & etiquette
- swimmers
- Avoid Swimming areas
- scuba diving and snorkeling
- water skiing
- canoeing, kayaking and rafting
- windsurfing
- sailing
- fishing
- hunting

## **Comprehensive Review**

## **Final Exam**

## **Grade & Review Exam – Issue Boating Safety Education Cards**