

Boat Maryland (BMD) – A Course on Responsible Boating
as presented by
Flotilla 23-1 - Annapolis, MD
USCG Auxiliary 5th District Southern Region

Learn about lines, knots, hitches & bends

Learn to tie commonly used nautical knots

Chapter 1- Know Your Boat

- **boat classes (lengths)**
- **hull types and performance characteristics**
- **basic vessel terminology**
- **basic Vessel parts:**
 - **Boats**
 - **Personal Watercraft (PWC)**
 - **Sailboat**
- **common engine and propulsion system types, characteristics & uses**

Chapter 2 - Before You Get Underway

- **vessel capacity plates / capacities**
- **float plans**
- **fueling a vessel**
- **vessel trailers**
- **launching and retrieving from a trailer**
- **help prevent theft**
- **basic vessel and engine maintenance**

Chapter 3 - Operating a Boat Safely

- **cast off and docking**
- **vessel owner / operator responsibilities**
- **encountering other vessels**
 - **head-on**
 - **crossing**
 - **overtaking**
- **sound signals**
- **navigation light**
- **navigation light patterns as seen at night**
- **Aid To Navigation (ATON) System (buoys and markers)**
- **boating near dams, locks & bridges**
- **tides and currents (impact on operation and performance)**
- **anchors types & characteristics (anchor rode)**
- **deploying & retrieving an anchor**
- **PWC operation & steering**
 - **ignition safety switches**

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Chapter 4 - Legal Requirements of Boating

- registration & title
- registration number and decal
- Hull Identification Number (HIN)
- legally operating a vessel
- reckless operation
- negligent operation
- dangers of consuming alcohol or drugs and penalties
- Lifejacket classifications, characteristics, uses & requirements
- fire extinguishers
- flame arrestors, ventilation systems and mufflers
- navigation lights
- visual distress signals
- sound producing devices
- diver down flags & requirements
- PWC specific requirements
- towing a skier
- disposing of waste, oil and trash
- Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)
- boating accidents

Chapter 5 - Boating Emergencies, What To Do

- identifying & managing risk
- boating stressors and impact on performance
- dehydration
- danger of alcohol
- Lifejacket condition and serviceability
- selecting and wearing Lifejackets (PFD)
- avoiding collisions
- responding to a fire emergency
- hypothermia
 - delaying onset - heat escape lessening posture (H.E.L.P.)
 - treating
- what to do if a vessel:
 - capsizes
 - swamps
 - runs aground
- carbon monoxide poisoning
- weather and weather warnings
 - foul weather conditions while on-the-water

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Waterway Watch

USCG Auxiliary – Brief Introduction

Chapter 6 - Enjoying Boating & Water Sports

- preventing trailer & vessel theft
- vessel owner / operator's responsibilities:
 - passengers
 - others operators
- others operating your PWC
- costal bays
- non-native species
- protecting & preserving the environment
- boat ramp courtesy & etiquette
- PWC courtesy & etiquette
- swimmers
- scuba diving and snorkeling
- water skiing
- canoeing, kayaking and rafting
- windsurfing
- sailing
- fishing
- hunting

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