



BOATING SAFETY BRIEF CHECKLIST

- Life jackets and throwable flotation devices**
 - Ensure each person has a life jacket that fits
 - How to don it
 - Location if stowed
 - Demonstrate how inflatables work including manual activation and oral inflation
 - Location and use of throwables
 - Signaling devices attached, such as whistles and lights
- Fire extinguishers**
 - Locations and use
 - Pass around to guests while you explain the basics of activation and use
- Flares & emergency signaling devices**
 - Types
 - Where located
 - Basic operation (particularly for longer cruises)
- First-aid kits & medical issues**
 - Point out location(s)
 - Let guests know it's OK to access basic like bandages or aspirin, but to inform you of any injuries
 - Ask if anyone has medical issues you should be aware of, including medications such as insulin, EpiPen, or inhalers (discuss in private if they prefer)
- Safety hazards**
 - Point out anything that could hurt guests (slip and trip hazards, dangers of grabbing lines or rigging, hatches they can fall down)
 - Explain how things that move while underway (e.g., boom) can cause injury, while the boat itself can be hazardous to move about in rough seas or heavy weather
 - Point out safe places to sit while sailing, docking, and/or anchoring
- Basic boat operation (how to perform these safely)**
 - How to bring boat to a stop
 - How to place engine in neutral or shut down if needed
 - If sailing, how to release the mainsheet and jib to dump the sails
- Man overboard**
 - Ensure everyone knows to throw the life ring, spare life jackets, cushions, etc., toward the person in the water
 - Assign one or more people to be spotters
 - Basic operation of any MOB equipment
 - Discuss other MOB considerations such as preventing the MOB from being struck by the boat or propellers
- Life raft**
 - Location and how it works
 - Only to be used during abandon-ship scenario
- EPIRB**
 - Location
 - Brief description of what it is, how it works, how to operate it
 - How to remove it from the stowage bracket and turn it on if directed by in emergency
- VHF radio**
 - Location and basic operation such as how to turn it on, select channel 16, transmit, receive, and operate the red DSC feature
 - How to find and give the location of the vessel in the event of an emergency
 - Include younger crew members and also explain what it's NOT used for
- Encourage questions** during & after safety brief
 - Hold informal debrief at the end of the trip
 - Use feedback to fine-tune your brief

More good knowledge to share

- Head:** Location and operation, what can/can't be flushed, where to toss used tissue or other items
- Hatches:** How to open/close safely & when they must be kept closed, such as when someone is working on deck or while underway at night
- Safe boarding/disembarkation:** When docked, using the dinghy, or other anticipated situations, use of hand-holds, platform, etc., and avoidance of prop/rolling hull
- Trash:** Location and any separation requirements (remind guests not to throw anything overboard)
- Docking procedures:** Assign tasks, explain procedure when leaving or approaching dock, demonstrate proper use of fenders while docking, highlight dangers of fending off with hands or feet
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