Gunwale and Bow Riding

Do not ride on the bow, sides, exterior sun decks or transom of the vessel.

About 80% of vessel fatalities result from falls overboard or vessels capsizing.

Water Skiing

In Orange County, you must ski in a counterclockwise direction.

Water skiing is prohibited from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.

The tow vessel must utilize a wide angle/ convex rear view mirror or an observer when towing a person(s) on water skis, wake boards, knee boards, surf boards, inflatable or any aquaplane type device.

The person(s) water skiing or aquaplaning must wear a U.S.C.G. approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device at all times.
The tow vessel and skier must stay a safe distance from shore, docks, or other vessels, except while picking up or dropping off the water skier from shore.

Underwater Operations

When SCUBA diving or snorkeling, the person underwater must display the "Diver Down" or "Alpha" flag.

Vessels approaching within 300' of a diver's flag may only do so at idle speed (100' in rivers, inlets and navigation channels.)

Boating / Skiing Under the Influence

It is prohibited to operate a vessel or ski with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08% or higher or while under the influence of drugs.

The penalties include a fine up to $2500 and/or one year in jail.

DIAL 9-1-1
FOR EMERGENCIES

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT, CALL 407-836-HELP (4357)

Visit us online at:
www.ocso.com

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Boater's Guide

10-1823 (12/12)

Nothing beats boating as a way to relax, have fun, enjoy the water and bring friends and family together.

As a boat owner/operator, YOU are responsible for your safety, the safety of your passengers and other boaters.

Boating safety courses are available and offered by the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, as well as your own state boating agencies. Call 1-800-336-BOAT for information on a course near you. This is a national toll free number provided by BoatUS.

Please visit the following website for information on other available boating safety courses:

www.MyFWC.com

Boating Safety Education Identification Card

A vessel operator born on or after 01/01/1988 must have a State of Florida issued Boating Safety Identification Card.

The ID card and a picture I.D. must be carried while operating any vessel with 10 HP or more.

Do your part to make boating safer and more enjoyable. Become an educated boater!

Personal Watercraft (PWC)

The operator must be at least 14 yeras of age and 18 years of age if rented. Allowing someone under the age of 14 to operate a PWC is against the law.

Operation from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise is prohibited.

It is dangerous and prohibited by law to:

- Weave your PWC through congested waterway traffic.
- Swerve at the last possible moment in Order to avoid collision (as in spraying another person, vessel or playing "chicken")
- Jump the wake of another vessel unreasonable or unnecessarily close to that vessel or when visibility is obstructed.

Personal watercraft must carry all equipment required of a Class A motorboat.

If the vessel is equipped with a engine shut off lanyard, it must be attached to the operator.

The operator and passengers must wear a USCG approved personal flotation device. (Type I, II or III)

RULES OF THE "ROAD"

Right of Way

When two vessels are approaching at right angles to each other, you are required to give way to a vessel on your right.

When two vessels are approaching each other head to head, both vessels must yield by changing course to the right (starboard).

When two vessels are traveling in the same direction, the vessel that is overtaking, from the rear must stay clear and yield to the vessel it is overtaking. The vessel that is being overtaken must maintain course and speed.

If it is unsafe to pass, the vessel that is being overtaken shall give the danger signal (five or more short blasts on the horn).
At no time should a vessel make a sudden change of course unless it is to avoid a collision.

Boating Accidents

A reportable boating accident is...

- When a person dies.
- When an injury requires medical attention beyond basic first aid.
- When a person disappears under circumstances which indicate the possibility of injury or death.
- When total vessel/property damage equals or exceeds $2000.

Reportable accident requirements:

- Must be reported to a law enforcement agency.
- Must render aid if it does not jeopardize life or property on board your vessel.
- Must give information to operator or other vessel or property owner.

Safe Operation

All vessels being operated upon the waters of this state shall be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner under the law, having regard for other waterborne traffic, posted speed and wake restrictions and all other attendant circumstances so as not to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.

Idle Speed / No Wake

The slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steerage and headway. The vessel should not produce a wake at this speed.

Slow Speed / Minimum Wake

The speed at which a vessel is completely settled in the water. The vessel wake must not be excessive nor create a hazard to other vessels.

Registration

All powered vessels, including electrically powered, in the State of Florida must be registered.

Just like a vehicle on the road, the registration must be carried on board at all times while the vessel is being operated.

The vessel registration numbers must be displayed on both sides of the forward half of the hull. The more visible, the better!

The registration numbers must be in bold, block letters at least 3" (three inches) tall.

They must be of a contrasting color to the hull. A space or hyphen must separate the letters from the numbers.

No number other than the assigned number will be displayed on the forward half of the hull.

The Registration Decal must be displayed within 6" (six inches), in front or back, of the registration number on the port side (left).