Every year millions of people go to the lake to have some fun! Here are a few tips to carry with during these fun times.
Boat Safety

Boating is a popular activity, but can also be dangerous. Take these facts with you.

• **Nationwide** nearly 1,000 people die in boating accidents every year.
• **Fifty percent of all boating fatalities involved alcohol, according to estimates of experts.**
• **Don’t water ski or jet ski in a manner that endangers other lake users. Boaters, watch for scuba divers and skiers**
• **Confine jet skiing and water skiing to daylight hours.**
• **Avoid excessive speed, especially in congested areas.**
• **Be aware of underwater hazards such as submerged logs, stumps, and rocks.**
• **Watch your children. Beaches are unguarded, and there may be sharp drop-offs near shore.**
There are also some states that require you to carry certain materials on your boat with you at all times. Make sure you have the following.

- Personal flotation device, make sure you have a device for every person on the boat
- Paddle
- Towline
- Emergency radio
- Bailing device
- Whistle or horn
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit
- Flares
All children should wear a life jacket.
Boating and Personal Watercrafts

• Boating and Personal Watercraft - An outing on a boat or the use of personal watercraft such as jet skis can be very rewarding. They can also be very dangerous if basic safety rules aren't followed. Before operating any boat or watercraft, make sure you know your local laws and regulations on operating them and obey them. The driver and any others on board should wear coast guard-approved life jackets that are in good condition.
Alcohol Rules and Safety

• Accidents involving alcohol and a boat can occur just as much as if you were driving a car instead. You are still capable of hurting yourself or someone if you decide to drink and drive a boat.

• A person can be charged with boating while intoxicated if their blood alcohol content is .10% or greater. While making it illegal to operate a boat under the influence reduces the chances of a boating accident, unfortunately with or without this law dozens of Americans are seriously injured each year in accidents involving boats, wave runners, jet skis and other personal watercrafts.
50% percent of ALL boating accidents have been influenced by alcohol.
Also....

- A boating while intoxicated first offense carries a minimum 48 hours in jail, a $1,000.00 fine, a suspension of boating privileges of one year and attendance at a course for drunk drivers.
The lake can be a very fun activity for the hot summer days, but everyone should be smart and safe out on the water.
Sources