



## WATER SAFETY

Boating Laws  
& Other Information



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### I. CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD)

- [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)
- (800) 792-1112

#### National ASSN of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

- [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)
- (859) 225-9487



## II. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

### Required Equipment: All Vessels

- life jackets
- horn or similar audible device

### Required Equipment: Motorized Vessels

- fire extinguishers
- flame arresters
- navigation lights
- rearview mirror
- muffler

**Only a portion** of the details are shown here.

**Visit our website**

for more information. ■

### Equipment Inspections

- TPWD officers may inspect any vessel for compliance
- Operators must permit officers to complete inspections



## III. REGISTRATION & LICENSE

### Vessels to Register

- motorized vessels
- sailboats (14+ feet)
- outboard motors

### Registration Requirements

- Submit application fee and proof of ownership
- Keep card in vessel
- Renew biennially
- Transfer titles within 20 days of purchase

### Hull Identification

Place identification on both sides of the hull.

- **Registration number:** Use block characters less than 3' tall
- **Validation stickers:** Place the sticker next to the registration number and nearest to the aft

### MSD Certification

Vessels with sewage systems require MSD certification.



## Operator's License

- Vessel operators are required to obtain an operator's license.

## Boater Education Course

- Complete a boater education course prior to applying for an operator's license
- Register for courses provided by TPWD or

## IV. GENERAL GUIDELINES

### Prior to Operating a Vessel

- Provide life jackets for each person on the vessel
- Check safety equipment

**Do not drink**  
alcohol and operate a vessel.  
Violators will be **fin**ed or  
**imprisoned.** ■





## Operating Vessels

- Report injuries and accidents to TPWD
- Remain a safe distance from other vessels
- Observe safety markers and avoid restricted areas
- Avoid sharp turns
- Pull water skiers during daylight only
- Use headway speeds to prevent hazardous wakes
- Avoid anchoring in high-traffic areas

## Miscellaneous Information

- Ask TPWD about certifying your homemade vessel (We require proof of the materials used.)
- When destroying a vessel, surrender the title to TPWD

**Be safe.** Your life  
depends on it.

- TPWD

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

