

SAFETY TALK >>>

Before each trip, check your *On-board Familiarization Checklist* to make sure you have everything you need for a safe departure. Always keep in mind that failing to plan, is planning to fail. It is essential to fully understand vessel safety rules and safety procedures before you depart.



Preparation for Departure

Date Discussed:

Signature:

Check the weather. Before weather forecasts, fishermen relied on watching the clouds and memorizing verses to make their predictions about the weather. It is important to check the weather forecast for the area before departing. Below are some recommend forecast stations:

- Canadian Coast Guard's Continuous Marine Broadcast - VHF Radio
- Forecast Consultation Service - 1-888-292-2222 (Credit card needed - \$2.99+tax per-minute charges)
- Environment Canada's Website – https://weather.gc.ca/forecast/canada/index_e.html?id=NS
- Weather Network – <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca>
- Instant Weather App - <https://instantweatherinc.com/app>

"Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailors take warning."

Important basic items to have on the boat:

- **Waterproof Flashlight** – Be sure to have a marine-grade waterproof flashlight (an extra set of extra flashlight batteries is a good idea).
- **Basic Toolkit** – Have a toolkit that contains screwdrivers, adjustable wrenches, ratchets, sockets, pliers, hose clamps, electrical tape, screws, nuts, bolts, and a wire cutter.
- **EPIRB** – An EPIRB is a battery-powered emergency transmitting device that is carried on your boat. As the name implies, it is used only in the event of an emergency and as a last resort if your marine radio is inoperable or out of range.
- **Life Jackets or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)** – One of the most important boating must-haves is a set of PFDs. A vessel must have an approved life jacket for every person on board.
- **Aspirin** – Keep aspirin in your first aid kit. Primarily for emergency treatment of a heart attack.
- **Sunblock** – Sunblock is an important item to have onboard. You are getting more sun because you are getting the reflection from the water. It can become excessive for your skin and eyes after a few hours on the water which is why sunscreen is so important.
- **First Aid Kit** – Help is not always convenient or readily available. That is why it is essential to have a basic first aid equipment aboard your vessel. You should be prepared for any onboard emergencies with a first aid kit that is stocked for the typical number of employees you have aboard.

DO NOT forget to:

Inspect all safety equipment before departing. All of the following should be inspected and in working order: Immersion Suits, Life Raft, EPIRB, Hydrostatic Release Units, PFD's, Fire Extinguishers, Ladders, Recovery Device, Flares, Life Rings. Go over with your crew what to do in case of a fire, flooding or what to do when the order is given to abandon ship. Make sure everyone on board is aware of the evacuation procedure. **Practice is important.** Check if the radios and other communication devices are functioning properly.