!! SUMMER SAFETY RIVER STYLE !!

FLOATING HOME SAFETY:

- **Emergency Equipment & Preparedness:** rapid fire suppression and clear escape paths are vital.
- **Fire Extinguishers:** Keep at least two extinguishers (Class ABC) on hand, with one mounted inside and one outside.
- **Fire Hoses:** Maintain a functioning outside water outlet with 50 feet of attached hose and a nozzle ready for immediate use, many moorages require a hose with a nozzle on every outside outlet.
- **Clear Walkways:** Never block walkways with potted plants, tools, bikes, or furniture. Firefighters require unobstructed space for maneuvering.
- **Alarms:** Install approved and functional smoke detectors on every level of the home, and Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors near sleeping areas.
- **Fire Pits:** Ensure they are placed on non-combustible surfaces and that a fire extinguisher or water hose is within 20 feet. Do not use during restricted times.
- **Practice Good Common Sense:** Especially with your electrical heaters, power cords & outlets, and storage of combustibles.

GENERAL BOATING SAFETY

Life Jackets Are Essential

Life jackets are at the core of safe boating, whether using a motorized or non-motorized vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard reports 81% of boating deaths in 2021 were due to drowning, and 83% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket.

While regulations on life jacket use vary from state to state, the Wear It program of the National Safe Boating Council promotes boating safety by encouraging boaters to wear life jackets any time they are on a boat, motorized or non-motorized.

Good swimmers still need life jackets. When people fall off a boat, they may become disoriented, injured or unconscious. Life jackets can keep victims' heads above water so they can breathe and be rescued more easily. Every child should wear a life jacket at all times when boating.

Choose the right life jacket for the activities you will be doing. Double check to make sure the life jackets are U.S. Coast Guard approved and fit correctly:

● Make sure the jacket is a proper fit for your size and weight

● Make sure the jacket is properly fastened

● Hold your arms straight up over your head, ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings and gently pull up; make sure there is no excess room above the openings and that the jacket does not ride up over your chin or face

Get Educated, Reduce Risks

The National Safe Boating Council encourages following these boating safety tips to minimize risks:

● Take a National Association of Boating Law Administrators safety course

● Be familiar with the boating state laws

● Know the “Rules of the Road”

● When operating a motorized boat, know about carbon monoxide; this odorless, colorless poisonous gas is emitted by all combustion engines and onboard motor generators

Be Prepared

Before setting out:

● Check that your equipment is in good working order; get a free vessel safety check with your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadron

● Review a pre-departure checklist to ensure you have everything you need in your boat, including a tool kit and first-aid kit

● Before you leave, always file a float plan with someone you trust

● Dress properly and bring an extra set of clothes in case you get wet

● Don’t forget the sunscreen and know the signs of heat illnesses

Exercise Good Judgment

● Respect your limits and keep within your limits to avoid injury

● Don't drink and drive a boat; alcohol affects judgment, vision, balance and coordination

● Once on the water, use common sense; in a split second, a situation can arise or the weather can turn

● If you notice storm clouds, a sudden temperature drop or wind speed increasing, play it safe and get off the water

BOATER SAFETY: WATERSPORTS

Waterskiing

To make waterskiing safer and more enjoyable for all, operators must observe the following laws:

- Skiing between sunset and sunrise is prohibited.
- There must be another person onboard as a lookout.
- Boaters must carry and use a red or orange “skier down” flag when the skier is in the water.
- Towed persons are considered onboard the tow boat. Therefore, children ages 12 and under on any towed device or “biscuits” must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- A PWC must have a three-person capacity to carry the operator, observer, and person being towed.
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The operator and skier must not operate:

- In a manner endangering the safety of persons or property.
- Under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or drugs (BUII).

Here are some good tips for skiers:

- Always keep an eye on the water ahead of you.
- If you fall, hold up a ski or arm to signal to the boat operator you're "o.k."
- When landing, come in parallel to the shore at low speed.
- Falls are inevitable–and it's a practical way to stop yourself. Simply let go of the tow line and sit down in the water. If you know you will fall sideways, curl up into a ball before you hit the water. Always be sure to throw the tow bar well clear to avoid becoming tangled in the rope.
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Things skiers shouldn't do:

- Don't ski in shallow water or near swimmers.
- Don't wrap the rope around any part of the body.
- Don't ski at night; and,
- Don't yell the command, "hit it" until the rope is taught and you're ready to be pulled.

Wakeboarding & Surfing: are popular activities from a wake boat. These boats are designed to make a larger, steeper wake that "carries" the surfer on the wave. Most wakeboard boats have several design features that help to create large wakes including ballast, wedges, and hull technology. Wake boat operators are urged to show respect and courtesy to other boaters and be conscientious of how they operate, with or without wake-enhancing devices, when operating in narrow water bodies where there are numerous docks, smaller watercraft, moorages, or other floating structures. **Special education and other rules apply for towed water sports** including education and credentialing when used on the Willamette River in Marion, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties. Other seasonal rules apply on the **Lower**

Willamette River from Willamette Falls to the Hawthorne Bridge in Portland.

Watercraft Safety Checklist When Renting A Boat:

All persons operating a rented watercraft greater than 10hp must carry the signed portion of the Watercraft Rental Safety Checklist if they do not already possess a boater education card. All other provisions of the Mandatory Boater Education Program apply, including minimum operator ages and supervision. The livery, or rental facility, will have each boat operator complete this form and walk through basic boating safety items on this checklist with a qualified staff member. Your signed copy of this checklist acts as a temporary boater education card only during the operation of the rented watercraft.

BOAT LAUNCHING:

Boat launches were designed with the motorized boater in mind. Many asphalt and concrete ramps have a v-groove to help with boat trailer traction.

Even though each facility's boat ramp differs, there's an **art to boat launching**.

Before getting into line or approaching the ramp:

- Take time to transfer gear, food, supplies, other safety gear, and equipment from the tow vehicle to the boat.
- Remove tie-downs securing the boat to the trailer, but make sure the winch line is still hooked to the bow eye.

- This is a good time to install and tighten all drain plugs, especially the ones at the bottom of the transom.
- Hook up fuel lines, if necessary, and pressurize the fuel line with a couple of pumps on the primer bulb.
- Check batteries to make sure they're charged.
- If your trailer lights are not waterproof, unplug the wiring harness between the trailer and your tow vehicle. This will prevent damage to your lights and blown fuses.
- Raise your outboard or stern drive so they won't scrape on the ramp.
- Tie at least one (preferably two) docking lines to the boat so that someone helping you will be able to control the boat after it's launched.

The last thing to do before getting in line is to take a few minutes to check out the launch ramp. Take note of how steep the ramp is, how deep the water is, and whether the ramp itself is dry or slick with algae. Is there a dock to tie up to after launching or will it be necessary to beach or anchor your boat?

PADDLE SPORT SAFETY:

Being safe on the water always starts with wearing your lifejacket (PFD). In addition, please consider the following advice: Recognize that federal regulations restrict paddling near military vessels and installations, and that there may be restrictions near bridge pilings and other areas. Never boat under the influence of alcohol. Do not stand up in a canoe or kayak and avoid weight shifts that may cause capsize. Whenever possible, keep points of contact with the boat when moving. Avoid paddling alone. Know your skill level and avoid weather or water conditions that exceed your skill. Constantly scan for potential hazards and changing weather conditions. Pay attention to signs and safety warnings. Set a

reasonable pace so everyone can stay together. Avoid having loose rope in, or dangling from, your boat. It can rapidly become an entrapment hazard. Never tie anyone in, or to, the craft. Recognize when others in your group are tired or having difficulty and adjust pace. Look out for everyone in your group. Designate a "sweep" boat to bring up the rear and make sure you don't lose stragglers. Communicate effectively on the water. Wind and water sounds can make hearing others difficult. Whistles and hand signals can be useful. Always be prepared for the unexpected flip. Sun and wind can be very dehydrating—make sure you drink plenty of water.

<u>PADDLE RESPONSIBLY</u>:

Beyond safety, paddlers should act responsibly on and off the water. Poor behavior by some paddlers can adversely impact others through increased regulation and fees, limitations on access, conflicts with other user groups, and damage to the environment. • Know and obey all rules and regulations. • Never use private property without permission. • Be courteous and polite when communicating. • Don't interfere with recreational activities of others. • Never engage in lewd or inappropriate behavior. • Avoid paddling near areas of heightened security. • Never litter, and always pack out trash. • Do not disturb wildlife.