**Safety Equipment – Notes**

* Why do we need list of mandatory safety equipment? To keep you safe!
* List of equipment from Transport Canada – “Boating Regulations” – they’re very convoluted, so we try to make it easier
* OPP may not not ask to see everything – lifejackets, PCOC, etc. – but they might!
* This list will help you to be SAFE on the water in case of emergency
* Lifejacket or PFD
  + Approved by Canadian Coastguard, Canadian Fisheries, or Transport Canada
  + Must be readily at hand; not stowed away
  + Must fit properly
  + In good condition; no rips, no missing buckles
  + Do NOT repair yourself or alter in any way (ie don’t write your name on it)
  + Inflatables must be WORN ALWAYS; not for anyone under 16 years of age or for use on a Personal Water Craft (PWC)
  + Life jackets **must** be worn by:
    - Children under 16 years of age
    - Non-swimmers
    - People boating alone
    - Stand-up Paddleboarders
    - EVERYONE after dark or in bad weather
  + JUST WEAR IT!
* Buoyant Heaving Line
  + At least 15 meters (50’) and must float
  + Orange can – make sure packaging is removed!
  + Practice throwing it – aim PAST the person in the water
  + Ski tow bar is another good option
  + On larger boats a life ring is required – must be attached to a heaving line
* Reboarding Device
  + Only required if freeboard (distance from top of the water to top of your gunwales) is more than ½ meter (20 inches)
  + Ladder, swim platform, or sling, but it must be a dedicated line
* Manual propelling device OR anchor with at least 15 meters of line (rope, cable, chain)
  + Paddle or 2 oars (if boat is under 20 feet) – you won’t be paddling a boat over 20’
  + Anchor must have line attached and must be attached to the boat
  + This is to keep you from drifting into trouble, ie rocks in an emergency
* Bailer or Manual Bilge Pump
  + Need manual pump if electrical problems; don’t count on your electric pump
  + Hose must reach over the gunwale; get an extension pipe to make sure
  + Bleach bottle (cap must be permanently fixed), juice pitcher, milk bag holder, etc.
* Watertight flashlight OR flares
  + Make sure batteries are installed and working in flashlight
  + Flares – valid for 4 years from date of manufacture
  + Flare Disposal – call Peterborough OPP office IN ADVANCE to take them there
* Sound Signaling Device
  + Boat horn may not work if electrical problems; also have an air horn on board
  + Have a whistle on each lifejacket
* Navigation Lights
  + Green to starboard (right); red to port (left); white at the stern (back)
  + Lights must work if operating after sunset, before sunrise, or in restricted visibility
* Magnetic Compass
  + GPS may be impacted in electrical storm; Cell phone may be out of range or have a dead battery
  + Not required if boat is less than 26 ft and operated within sight of navigation marks
* Fire Extinguisher
  + 5 BC for boats under 20 feet (if fixed gas tank)
  + Additional 5 BC for boats 20-30 feet – one near engine compartment and one closer to front, ie in the galley or by sleeping area
  + Additional extinguisher if fuel-burning (alcohol, propane, etc.) cooking, heating, or refrigeration, such as propane BBQ
  + Even if galley is all electric, good idea to have fire extinguisher close by
  + Number is the size of coverage – 5 = 5 square feet, which is about the size of the top of your oven at home… not very big… just enough to get you safely get off the boat
  + A – Paper, wood, plastic, rubber, etc.
  + B – Flammable liquids, gasoline, oil
  + C – Electrical fire
  + Most are “BC” because they will also control paper, wood, etc.
* Pleasure Craft Operators Card
  + Required for ALL motorized vessels, regardless of size of motor
  + Must be the original card
* Restricted Operator Certificate (Maritime) – aka Marine Radio License
  + Required if you have a radio on board, even if you “don’t use it”
  + Go to [www.Boatingcourses.ca](http://www.Boatingcourses.ca) to find a course near you to get your certificate
* Boat Registration
  + Numbers must be correctly marked on the boat
  + COPY of the document should be on-board
  + Must be renewed every 10 years
  + Also carry a photocopy of photo ID (driver’s license, OHIP card, etc.)
* Paper Charts / Strip Charts
  + Must either be able to demonstrate “local knowledge”, ie know where the rocks are located, where the channels lead to, etc., or carry charts
  + Cellphones batteries could die or have poor reception; GSP can go out in certain conditions
  + Available at [www.Trakmaps.com](http://www.Trakmaps.com), or available through Amazon

**Also suggested:**

* First Aid kit
* Carbon Dioxide and Smoke Detectors
* Bottled water and snacks
* Tool kit and spare parts
* Dry clothing, towels, thermal blanket
* Sun Screen