**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