



# 5-2 Safety Short

19 June 2007

## Water Safety - Boating

### Get on board with life vests

- Wearing a Life Vest is mandatory for all occupants when in an open area of the following vessels, while underway:
  - Power driven vessels up to and including 16 feet in length and Personal Watercraft (PWC)
  - Canoes, kayaks, rowing boats
  - Off-the-beach sailing yachts, pedal boats and fun boats
  - Recreational tenders
- A Life Vest must also be worn by all occupants of the following vessels at times of "heightened risk" when occupants are in an open area of a vessel which is under way:
  - Yachts (including monohull, trailerable and multihull yachts. Excludes off-the-beach yachts)
  - Power driven vessels greater than 16 feet but less than 40 feet
- "Heightened risk" means:
  - When crossing an ocean bar
  - When boating alone
  - When operating at night or in restricted visibility
  - When the vessel is a yacht without safety barriers or safety harnesses in use
  - When the vessel may capsize or be swamped or when occupants are at risk of falling overboard
  - When operating in an area where a gale, storm or severe thunderstorm warning or severe weather warning issued by the Weather Services is current

## **Trip preparation**

- Properly maintain your vessel, engine and safety equipment
  - Check the marine weather report
  - Ensure you have sufficient fuel and reserve fuel
  - Inform a person of your trip intentions
  - A boat license is often required to operate a recreational boat

## **Safe Operation**

- Vessels are required to maintain a maximum speed of 5 knots when:
  - Within 50m (150 feet) of swimmers, other vessels and fixed or floating structures
  - Within 100m (300 feet) of Divers/Divers' flag
  - Within 50m (150 feet) of water's edge (inland)
  - Within 200m (600 feet) of water's edge (Coastal and Enclosed)
- Don't Drink and Boat
- Maintain a good lookout and operate at a safe speed

## **Emergency Procedures**

- All occupants to put on Life Vests
- Raise the alarm using:
  - Marine Radio
  - Phone
  - Flares
- Stay with your boat
  - a vessel is a lot easier to spot than a swimmer
  - anchor your boat to maintain position if safe to do so