

Surfing Safely

The Canadian Coast Guard is a division of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and they also have a comprehensive web site.

<http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca>

Another valuable web site full of boating safety information is Transport Canada's Marine Safety Site

All their publication are available on line.

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/debs/obs/menu.htm>

Material you can find here includes:

- Latest versions of the 'Safe Boating Guide'
- A Vessel Maintenance Guide
- A Sea Kayaking Safety Guide
- A safety video "Boom, up she went" (**Check it out!!**)
- Survival in Cold Waters
- Protecting the Marine Environment
- A Boaters Guide to Signage

Another excellent source information can be found at the Government of Canada's Boating Safety web site.

http://www.safecanada.ca/link_e.asp?category=7&topic=54

If you're interested in Boating Safety and these vital services to Canadian Boaters, spend a few minutes on their sites. You may find it was time well wasted.

BOW - This is what you do in front of your banker when you are asking for more money to spend on your boat. As your boat will surely cost much more than what you initially asked for, it is imperative that you learn how to do this quickly.

GPS - An electronic device that allows you to navigate out of sight of landmarks at which time the batteries conveniently expire.

Marine Disasters happen

In recent years, there have been several major boating incidents involving small craft in local waters. A boat exploded in a Victoria Harbour after refueling. The skipper (he just bought the boat) suffered a broken leg and severe burns and his son was horribly burned as a result of the incident. Shortly after, a boat was run over by a BC Ferry as it was leaving Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island. The retired couple aboard running on autopilot both perished.

A recently concluded investigation was about a boat that tried to navigate between a tug and its tow off Point Atkinson just after dark. Several perished after the boat struck the tow cable.

A US submarine surfaced under a fisheries training boat off the coast of Hawaii. Eleven of those aboard were lost. This echoes a similar incident in the Strait of Juan de Fuca when a submarine surfaced under a sailboat. The crew all survived that incident but the boat was lost.

Accidents at sea happen. You are wise to be taking a course like this to prepare yourself, as many problems can be avoided. You are learning to; run a blower after refueling to vent explosive fumes, always keeping a watch even on autopilot, know navigation lights at night (three lights on a tug indicate it has a tow). Even professional mariners make errors, like the unusual errors made by those subs. Reduce the odds that disaster might happen to you. Keep on Learning and always **Boat Safely**.

Don't forget to sign up for the Student Cruise! If we don't have you down we don't know the right numbers of everything ranging from boats and proctors to food to have on hand for the cruise.

Be sure to let Pat know if you are coming, and sign the form, so that our Student Cruisemaster can call the right number of boats and proctors to help you out!