

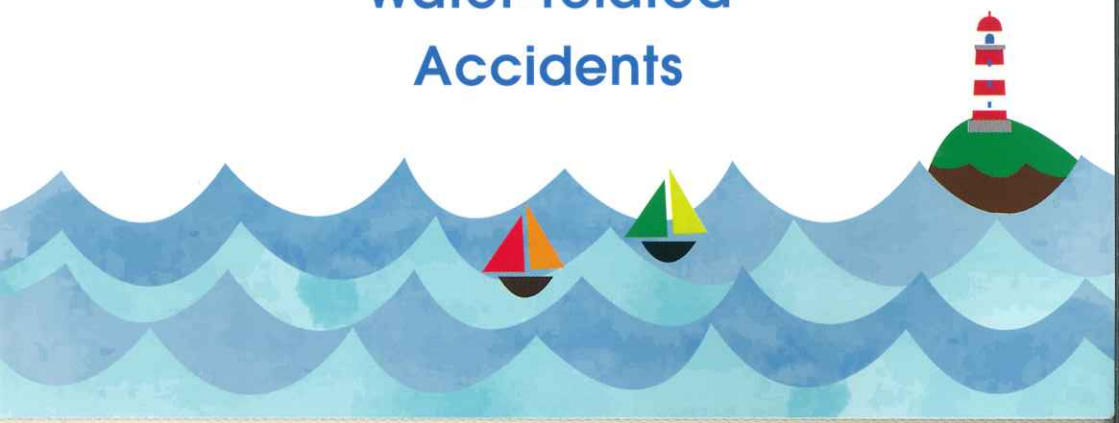


Marine Safety Guide for Small Boats

11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters



Preventing
Water-related
Accidents



Make sure to check these points!

Are you watching out for dangers at all times?

- Are you using binoculars and radars to watch out for dangers?
- Are there any vessels, obstacles or shores near you?
- Do you know where you are at?



Are you following rules and manners?

- Follow the basic traffic rules and avoid collision ahead of time
- Do not enter construction areas or working areas
- Do not anchor the boat or roam near sea routes or narrow channels
- Mooring vessels to navigation aids or buoys is prohibited



Are you inspecting your boat before and after you go out in the sea?

Fuel



- Do you have enough fuel?
- Is your fuel filter clean?
- Did you open the fuel cock?

Engine Oil



- Do you have enough oil?
- Is there any oil leakage from the engine?
- Are you changing your oil frequently?

Roaming on water



- Are you using too much electric equipment?
- Are you putting your clutch in neutral and checking the emergency engine brakes when starting the boat?

Batteries



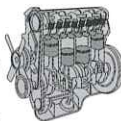
- Did you check the voltage?
- Did you make sure that the terminal is not loose?
- Do you have enough battery fluid?

Coolant



- Do you have enough coolant?
- Did you make sure the filter is not clogged?
- Is the seawater inlet valve open?

Engine



- Are the engine sound and the temperature, color and smell of the exhaust gas normal?
- Are the coolant discharge situation, temperature and the pressure normal?
- Is the engine speed normal?

※Make sure to clean up the equipment and waste cloths after inspection and maintenance.

Have you checked the latest weather forecast?



- Check the latest weather forecast
- Be aware of the change of wind, clouds and waves
- Exchange information with others

[Check the latest weather forecast here!](#)



**Make early decisions •
Having the courage to cancel departures!**

Things to check before departure

Before departing

Make realistic plans and share them with others!

IS THERE ANY SHORE OR NETS AROUND YOU?



HOW MUCH FUEL DO YOU HAVE?

Don't forget to check the latest weather forecast!



Is there anything unusual about the boat, engine or the emergency equipments?

BOAT CHECK!
ENGINE CHECK!



Don't forget about the legal documents and equipments!



Make sure to have an alternate method of communication on sea such as cell phone or wireless radio.



Refrain from going out in the sea when the weather looks uncertain or there is something wrong with the boat or its engine.



When operating a boat

● Watch out for safety and check your location at all times. Take early actions.

● Big boats and fishing boats under operation have different control functions and visibility.

● Using the starter battery as a power source for GPS or fish-finder will cause an over discharge.

● Are you monitoring the weather?

If the weather seems bad, make early decisions to head back.

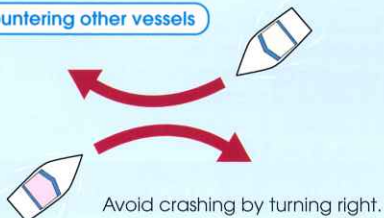
"THEY MIGHT NOT NOTICE ME..."



Basic traffic rules on the water

If the other boat cannot seem to avoid the crash, take the initiative to turn off the engine or switch it in reverse to avoid the crash.

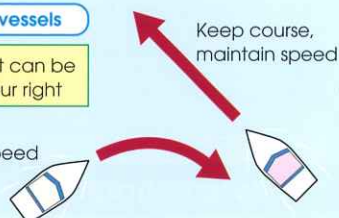
Encountering other vessels



Crossing vessels

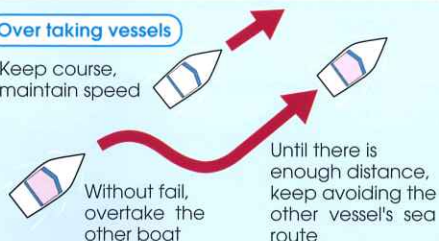
Vessels that can be seen on your right

Turn right or decrease speed



Over taking vessels

Keep course, maintain speed

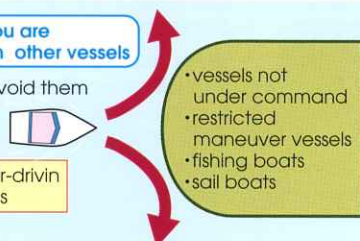


When you are between other vessels

avoid them

power-driven vessels

- vessels not under command
- restricted maneuver vessels
- fishing boats
- sail boats



How to ride watercrafts safely

Watch out for danger!

As you increase your speed, your vision fields narrow. Watch out for dangers while controlling the boat.



Conduct inspections before going in the water!

Watercrafts have complicated engines compared to that of motor boats and will also easily absorb trash.



Reckless driving is prohibited!

Do not overspeed, spin, turn or zigzag near swimmers. It is dangerous and might cause serious injuries.



Take precautions when towing water equipments!

You can pull water skis and banana boats with watercrafts, however, it is difficult to cruise on them so be careful.



How to operate miniboats safely

Follow the ocean rules!

Operating a miniboat does not require a driver's license, however, laws must be followed. Please follow the rules and operate safely.



Difficulties of returning!

Since mini boats have low power and low fuel, there is a possibility that strong wind and water current will push away the vessel offshore. Don't forget to check the weather and to board near the coast.



Mini boats are hard to notice!

Let people know your presence by using flags and refrain from going out in the sea at night. It is a requirement to turn on the navigation lights set forth by law between sunset to sunrise and also during visibility restricted conditions.



Refrain from doing dangerous actions!

Loading people and luggages beyond the boat's capacity can cause the mini boat to turn over or sink so be careful.



What should you do when there is an accident?

When an accident occurs, take immediate actions to rescue lives and salvage the boat. Call Japanese Coast guard (118) and report the following matters. It is very important to let people around you know that the vessel (including people on board) is in an emergency situation.

- ☐ Name of the person reporting
- ☐ Type of accident (collision•capsizing•medical emergency•Going overboard etc.)
- ☐ Place of accident (if unknown, place of reporting and time of accident)
- ☐ Number of people sick or injured, their current situation and measures that were taken
- ☐ Boat name•boat type•number of people on board•boat features
- ☐ Other ways to contact the person reporting
- ☐ Current situation of the boat, specific actions that were taken
- ☐ Other matters for reference

