

# Boating safety tips

RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

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**W**e don't often discuss boating accidents. They simply don't happen as frequently as car accidents. However, we are now coming into cottage weather and that means more boats – and boaters – on our lakes and rivers.

What is puzzling is people tend to be less cautious in boats. We feel safer for some reason on the water. That may be due to a false sense of security because

you are a good swimmer. People get fast and loose with regulations that seem obvious in a car, such as drinking and driving.

Drunk driving causes the majority of boating accidents. Drinking slows your reaction time, makes you dizzy and less equipped to deal with potential dangers. Driving a boat is not easier or less complicated than a car, so you need to be equally alert. Make sure you do not drive your boat drunk or tipsy.

You want to ensure your boat has proper lighting. I was involved in a case years ago where the two boats didn't see each other. This led to devastating consequences.

Wear your lifejacket. Even if you are a great swimmer,

if you are knocked out or fuzzy you may not be able to get yourself safely to shore. Lifejackets are mandatory like seatbelts for a reason. Carry all safety gear with you in case of an emergency.

Take it easy as well. Do not stay out in the blazing sun for hours and hours. Take a break – come in from the sun and rehydrate. You do not want to be lethargic in the face of a dangerous situation.

Be safe, have fun and enjoy your long weekend! ■

*Sandra Ziskind provides an educational article for viewing, it should not be construed as legal advice. If you need Legal advice, please contact a lawyer or Sandra Ziskind at 416 850 PAIN*



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