

Boat Safety tips

In 2008, there were 4,789 reported boat accidents across the country resulting in 709 deaths and 3,391 injuries. Here are some facts and tips to keep your family safe this boating season.

90
PERCENT

of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket

10
PERCENT

of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had received safety training

+66
PERCENT

of all fatal boating accident victims drowned

Before the season starts

Be sure your watercraft is safe by performing the manufacturer suggested maintenance and safety inspections.

Before you leave the dock

Have a boater's checklist and run through it prior to embarking. Have a life jacket (personal flotation device, PFD) for each person on board. PFD must be worn by everyone aboard pleasure vessels less than 21' in length including row boats, canoes and kayaks while underway between November 1st and May 1st. BY LAW children 12 and under must be wearing a life jacket at all times. Review emergency procedures with all passengers

Once under way

NEVER drink alcohol and pilot a boat; it is illegal and carries a hefty fine. Alcohol is the leading factor in deadly boating accidents. Maintain a safe speed and be aware of other boaters and swimmers.

Be smart

The top five contributing factors in boat accidents are careless or reckless operation, operating inattention, no proper lookout, operator inexperience and improper passenger or skier behavior.

Be prepared and informed

Throughout NYS boater safety courses are affordable and available. Contact DEC Region 8 or your local sporting goods store to locate one that is convenient for you.



Throwable PFD

Must have at least one approved PFD on board and easily accessible



Sound producing device

Must carry a horn, whistle or have a bell on board



Fire extinguisher

Fire extinguishers are required on boats with a motor



Life vest (PFD)

One for each person on board. Children 12 and under must be wearing life vest at all times.



Visible Distress Signal (VDS)

Must have on board a light producing (for night time) and one daytime smoke producing visible distress signal. Example: Daytime flare (smoke) night time flashlight

Registration stickers

By law, state validation and number stickers must be affixed to front of boat

On board safety checklist



Honeoye Lake wants you safe!

Required Equipment For Vessels

All mechanically propelled vessels must have:

- 1 PFD Type 1, 11, or 111 for every person on board including pleasure vessels (Boats under 21', row boats, canoes, kayaks, etc.). One throwable Type 1V PFD if over 16'.
- A whistle or horn capable of producing a 2 second blast which can be heard for 1/2 mile.
- A portable B-1 fire extinguisher except on motor boats less than 26' of open construction.
- Carburetor backfire flame arresters must be installed on all mechanically propelled vessels.
- Class A boats (less than 16' and Class 1 boats (16-26') shall carry a bright white light aft to show all around the horizon and a combined lantern on fore part of vessel showing green on starboard (right) and red on port (left) sides.
- On Honeoye Lake between sunset and sunrise, all vessels, whether anchored or adrift, shall display a white light visible all around the horizon for a distance of at least 1 mile.
- An anchor and sufficient line.

Pilot Rules

- No person under the age of 18 years shall operate a mechanically propelled vessel unless the operator is accompanied by a person who is 18 years or older, or the operator is 10 to 18 and has a safety certificate.
- When vessels are approaching each other "head to head" it is your duty to keep to your right just like cars.
- When vessels approach on an angle, yield to the vessel on the right.
- When vessels are passing another vessel from the rear they must yield the right of way to the vessel being passed.
- Powered vessels must yield the right-of-way to non-powered vessels.
- Boating while intoxicated, reckless operation of water craft, or discharge of waste into the lake are prohibited.

Noise Level

No pleasure vessel may be operated in such a manner to exceed 90dB(A) when subjected to a stationary sound test, or exceed 75dB(A) in a moving test.

Speed Limits

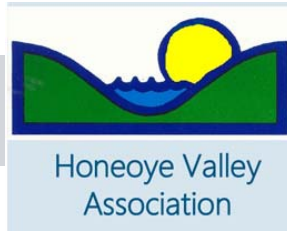
No vessel on Honeoye Lake shall be operated at a speed of more than **10 miles per hour** from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

"5 M.P.H. Rule"

ALL VESSELS or PWCs SHALL NOT EXCEED 5 mph when being operated within 200 feet of the shore line, a dock, pier, rafts, floats, moored or anchored vessels, including fishermen, EXCEPT TO PULL UP OR DROP OFF A WATER SKIER.

Water Skiing/Towing

Any vessel towing a person on water ski(s) or similar device, i.e. tube, raft, or floating device must have someone 10 years or older, other than the operator observing the person being towed. Water Skiing is prohibited between SUNSET and SUNRISE.



BOATING SAFETY & YOU

Laws to Live By on Honeoye Lake

Personal Water Craft Laws

NYS boating laws continue to change and reflect the public's reactions to personal watercraft. Previously legislation has been passed to require that by 2004, **anyone operating a personal watercraft must have completed and passed the boating safety class.** The phase in for PWC education is:

Last year an amendment was passed to Section 46 of the Navigation Law. The new law specifically allows a county, city, or village to prohibit personal watercraft and specialty-prop craft on waterways. There are some reasons for the passage of this law. PWC only comprise some 8% of our registered boating population, but last year again were involved in 24% of all accidents. PWC operators can be a nuisance to people on shore. One way to help with that is to play in different areas of the lake, rather than staying in one spot. PWC operators also need to know that is against the law to jump a boat wake close to the other boat, and to drive while under the influence of alcohol. By operating your PWC in a responsible manner, you can help keep Honeoye Lake open for PWCs.

HVA hopes that all of you have a safe boating season.

Each person riding shall be wearing a Type 1, 11, 111, or V – PFD

- No operation from sunset to sunrise
- No operation within 500' of designated swim areas
- No reckless or unreasonable operation
- No weaving in congested traffic
- No jumping another vessel's wake unreasonably close to the vessel
- No "playing chicken" or swerving head-on at the last possible moment
- If equipped the lanyard-type cutoff switch shall be always used
- Visual distress signals and a sound signaling device shall be aboard
- May not be rented to anyone under the age of 16. Youths 16-18 wishing to rent must show proof of completed safety course.

Additional Boating regulations for Honeoye Lake

- **NO** vessel shall be operated over 10mph at night
- **ALL** vessels, powered and non powered, stationary, anchored or underway shall continuously display a white light with 360 visibility at night
- Local law: Art 9, sec.130, subsec.17: reg. of vessels, towns of Richmond & Canadice

Ontario County Boater Safety Courses

Members of the Marine and Recreational Division offer boating safety courses locally. There is no fee for participants between the ages of 10 and 17. There is a \$10 fee (*subject to change*) for those 18 and older to receive your certificate, this is payable to the State of New York after successful completion of the coursework. Classroom hours are 9am to 5pm. Contact the Ontario Co. Safety Training Ctr., Co. Rd. 48, Canandaigua (Town of Hopewell) (585)394-4560 to leave a message for the instructor to be notified of class days and times. Classes are for adults and children.

Become a HVA Member

Visit our website hvaweb.org for membership applications, events, news, donations and educational resources about the Honeoye Valley.

The HVA acts as an advocate for the protection and improvement of the Honeoye Lake Watershed. Activities include communicating with governmental agencies and political representatives, educational outreach, monitoring of the lake ecosystem, and acting as a clearing-house for information related to these activities



New York State GUIDELINES AND LAWS for boating on Honeoye Lake



www.hvaweb.org