



Public Service Announcement

Boating Season and Personal Flotation Devices

On May 4th, the Greenwich Police Department Marine Section started its enhanced Summer coverage on Long Island Sound. As we kick off the 2020 boating season, the Marine Officers want to remind everyone about the need for life jackets and personal flotation devices.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, in 2018, four out of every five recreational boating fatalities were caused by drowning. Wearing a life jacket may have avoided more than eighty percent of those deaths.

Boaters, whether new or experienced, love the adventure and fun of a day spent on the water. However, accidents happen quickly, so don't just carry a life jacket, be responsible, and wear it while boating. New life jackets are more comfortable, lightweight, and stylish than the bulky orange style of jackets. There are innovative options that allow for better mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, paddling, or hunting.

As a boat operator, you need to ensure that every personal flotation device is Coast Guard approved. Remember to have one wearable Type I, II, III, or V for every person on-board or being towed. Also, have at least one throwable Type IV device on boats 16 feet and larger. Lastly, keep them readily accessible before an emergency arises.

Should you have further questions or would like more information about boating or personal watercraft safety, please contact the Marine Section at 203-622-8044.

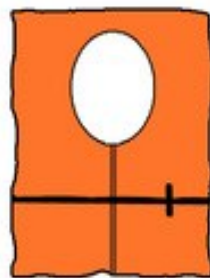


Personal Flotation Device Categories



Type I: Off-shore life jacket

Designed for survival in rough, open water. Will turn an unconscious person face up. This is the best PFD to keep you afloat when rescue may be slow coming.



Type II: Near-shore vest

The "Classic" PFD designed to turn an unconscious person face-up in the water. Less bulky and less expensive than a Type I.



Type III: Flotation aid

For use in calm water where chance of quick rescue is good. Will not turn unconscious person face up. High comfort for boating activities and sports.



Type IV: Throwable device

Designed to be thrown to a person in the water. Includes boat cushions, ring buoys, and horseshoe buoys. These are not intended to be worn.



Type V: Special purpose

Special use PFDs include work vests, deck suits, and waterski vests. Must be used according to requirements on the approval label.

