



# VAN ISLE MARINA

## Boating Emergency Kit Checklist

### What Emergency and Safety Equipment Do You Need on Your Yacht?

Having a comprehensive boating emergency kit on board your vessel will provide reassurance and practical assistance should anything unexpected happen such as:

- Someone falling overboard
- A sick or injured passenger
- A collision with another boat or stationary item like a rock
- Your boat suffers a mechanical failure

All boaters know that nothing can be more relaxing than a day on the water, whether it's an early morning fishing trip, an afternoon of sightseeing or a multi-day trip. There's nothing like the feel of the sea air on your face as you enjoy time on your yacht or sailing boat.

However, experienced boaters also know that things can go wrong quickly; so it's important to be prepared with the boat safety equipment and tools you might need in an unexpected incident.

### What Do I Need in My Emergency Boating Kit?

There are some essential items that all marine emergency kits should contain. Transport Canada does require all boats to carry certain safety and emergency equipment which depends on the size of the vessel.

This includes:

- Life saving appliances such as PFDs and floatation devices
- Visual signals
- Navigation equipment
- Firefighting equipment

Find out what your specific vessel is required to carry by checking out the safe boating guide on the Transport Canada website.



### What Do the Best Boating Emergency Kits Include?

When putting together your boating emergency kit, consider what you will need in each of the following categories:

- Survival gear
- Signalling equipment
- Navigation tools
- Safety gear
- First Aid kit

### Survival Gear

This is the equipment that will help you to survive should you or a passenger end up in the water and includes:

**Floatation Devices:** Life-jackets save lives in Canadian waters every year. Make sure you have enough life-jackets or PFDs for each person on board. It is important that these fit well and meet Canadian standards. Check out this guide to choosing a life-jacket for more information.

**Throwable Floatation Devices:** All vessels over 9m long need to carry a lifebuoy attached to a buoyant line and a separate buoyant heaving line. You may also wish to include some throw cushions for extra options.





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## Signaling Tools

If you have an emergency on your personal watercraft you may need to get the attention of the coast guard or another vessel to help you. The best way to do this is to be highly visible and make a lot of noise:

**Visual Distress Signals:** Make sure your boat meets the requirements for day and night lights to ensure you are as visible as possible. Also carry at least one waterproof flashlight and flares, including light and smoke flares, as well as bright flags.

**Sound Distress Signals:** Make sure your horn and bell on your vessel are working and you know the international emergency sound signals. Also consider carrying an air horn and whistles for additional attention especially if you have to abandon ship and enter the water.

**VHF Radio:** Have a fitted or hand held VHF radio on board which enables you to contact other nearby vessels and the coast guard. Learn and write down the emergency broadcast frequency in case you need it.

## Navigation Tools

Knowing where you are and what is around you is important if you are in an emergency situation.

**Manual Navigation:** Always carry a magnetic compass, charts and ruler so you can manually chart and track your location.

**Electronic Navigation:** Many boats have built in GPS trackers which are useful for establishing your location. Radar systems will also help you to identify what is around you and whether another vessel is in your area. Both are available in portable versions if you do not have them built into your boat.

**Emergency Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs):** These send out GPS distress signals when activated and can be a good way to keep track of someone who goes overboard.



## Safety Gear

For general on board safety, you should also include some of the following equipment in your boating emergency kit:

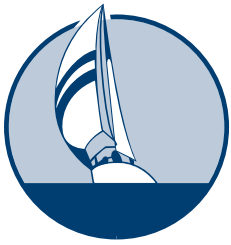
- Fire extinguishers
- Additional food and water
- Manual bilge pump or bailing device
- Small tool kit
- Weather gear including raincoats or ponchos, a warm jacket, sunscreen and sun hat
- Dry change of clothes
- Waterproof matches
- Knife sharp enough to cut rope
- Batteries
- Portable fuel tanks

## First Aid Kit

Health emergencies can happen on board a boat, some – such as nausea – are less serious but can ruin the enjoyment of the trip. Other health emergencies can be more serious. Carrying a comprehensive first aid kit on board means you have the ability to help whatever the circumstances.

Boat owners may wish to consider taking a first aid course through Canadian Red Cross or another recognised organization too. A good first aid kit should include:

- Gauze, bandages and waterproof band aids
- Adhesive tape
- Gloves
- Scissors
- Antiseptic
- Pain relievers
- Tweezers
- Anti-histamines
- Anti-nausea medication
- Spare prescription medications
- Emergency blankets



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## Where Should I Store My Marine Emergency Kit?

The majority of your emergency kit can be stored together in a large waterproof container.

Make sure the container is in an easily accessible position, not in the back of a storage hold or underneath other boxes, as you might need to get at it in a hurry.

Check your emergency kit and equipment each time you sail. Replace anything that is running low or past its use-by date.

## Van Isle Marina – A Safe and Secure Place to Anchor Up

Van Isle Marina, located in Sidney, BC, is one of the province's largest full-service marinas. Our location makes us a great starting and finishing point for short or longer boating adventures. We offer short-stay, monthly and annual moorage options and offer first-class amenities including a marine fuel dock, boat haul-out and even a restaurant.

Visit us today in Tsehum Harbour or contact us to find out more about our marina and moorage options.

