



# A Boating Safety Refresher

By: David Sidney, Lake Conroe Division



With summer just on the horizon and boat traffic on Lake Conroe increasing by the day, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) wants to encourage everyone who uses Lake Conroe to keep boating safety in mind as you plan your next trip out on the lake.

Here are a few general things to keep in mind before hitting the water:

- A Boaters Safety Course, prior to operating any vessel, is highly recommended.
  - Courses are offered by both the United States Coast Guard and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD).
- Make sure to have all the proper safety equipment onboard the vessel.
  - A full checklist of required safety items is available through the TPWD website.
- Check the weather forecast and wind conditions for the day prior to getting on the water.
  - Remember to periodically monitor the weather, as wind and weather conditions can vary drastically throughout the day.
- Check your navigation lighting.
  - Even though you may only plan to





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be out on the water during the day, circumstances may change, causing you to navigate at night.

- File a float plan.
  - It is always a good idea to let some one know where you plan on going and how long you expect to be out.
- Know the "rules of the road."
  - There are specific rules and regulations that govern navigation on the water as well as many good "best practices" to keep you safe.
  - The rules and practices for navigation are available through various courses offered through the TPWD.
- ALWAYS avoid consuming alcohol while operating a vessel.
- ALWAYS wear your life jacket, even if you are an experienced boater and swimmer.

Keep these recommendations in mind as you hit the water this season. They can help you and everyone around you have a great day on the water and get home safe!

For more information, please visit [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net). ♦

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