

IMPAIRED

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BOATING

**CRASHES MORE THAN
JUST YOUR PLANS.**

Alcohol and Boating Don't Mix Operating a boat while impaired by alcohol or drugs puts everyone on the water at risk. Just like driving a car, boating under the influence is illegal and can result in serious consequences—including fines, arrest, jail time, injuries, or death.

1

KNOW THE LAW

A person operating a vessel with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or higher may be charged with Boating While Intoxicated (BWI). State and federal laws prohibit operating a vessel while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

2

BOATING IMPAIRED IS DIFFERENT

The boating environment can intensify the effects of alcohol and drugs.

Factors such as:

- Sun exposure
- Wave motion and vibration
- Wind and weather conditions
- Fatigue and dehydration

When alcohol or drugs are added, operators may experience:

- Slower reaction times
- Poor decision-making
- Reduced balance and coordination
- Increased risk of falls overboard
- Reduced vision and awareness of hazards

3

Consequences of BWI

- Criminal charges
- Significant fines
- Possible jail time
- Loss of boating privileges
- Vessel impoundment in some jurisdictions
- Serious injury or death

4

MAKE A SAFE CHOICE

Before leaving the dock:

- Designate a sober operator
- Stay hydrated and alert
- Know your local boating laws
- Save alcohol for after you're safely ashore

IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE A BOAT



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