

# Pre-departure Checklist

## PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

\_\_\_ At least one Coast Guard approved device per passenger and a minimum of two onboard. An additional throwable device is required if the vessel is more than 16 feet long.

\_\_\_ Explain the location and use of all PFDs to passengers and crew that may be new to the vessel.

## SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES (WHISTLE)

\_\_\_ Must have a horn capable of producing a four-second blast audible for at least 1/2 mile. If a portable air horn, have a spare can of air or an alternate device

## LIGHTS AND SHAPES

\_\_\_ All navigation lights, as required, in working order.

\_\_\_ Instrumental lights working.

\_\_\_ If you intend to engage in an activity that requires a day shape, have the required shapes.

\_\_\_ Flashlight onboard.

## DISTRESS SIGNALS

\_\_\_ Accessible flares, day signals, etc., stored in a dry location.

\_\_\_ Carry signals at all times even if not required by the Coast Guard.

\_\_\_ Inform the crew and passengers of their location and their use.

## TOOLS AND SPARES

\_\_\_ Basic toolbox onboard and a bucket for bailing.

\_\_\_ Box of spares aboard, e.g. fuel filter, light bulbs, head parts, through-hull plugs, etc.

## VENTILATION

\_\_\_ On any powered vessel or auxiliary powered sailboat, or vessels using LPG for cooking or heat, check that all interior spaces are well ventilated before departure.

\_\_\_ If fuel smells are detected before ventilating, check after running the blowers for several minutes before starting. If odor persists, look for the source.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

\_\_\_ Accessible fire extinguisher. Do you have at least those required by the U.S.C.G.?

\_\_\_ Check to be sure mounts are secure and functional before departure.

## FUEL AND OIL

\_\_\_ Are your tanks topped-off? If not, have enough fuel to provide a reasonable margin of safety for your return.

\_\_\_ Check the engine oil and coolant level.

\_\_\_ **Make sure to carry oars or paddles. In some states, it is a requirement.**

## BILGES

\_\_\_ Check to be sure bilges are reasonably dry and that pumps are not running excessively. Clean up any spilled oil or waste in bilges to prevent overboard discharge.

## BATTERY CARE

\_\_\_ If you have a dual charging system, is the selector switch in the proper position? Is the power on to the entire vessel?

\_\_\_ Spare batteries for accessories such as a hand-held radio, flashlight, portable navigational aid, etc.

\_\_\_ If they are rechargeable, are they charged?

## WEATHER FORECAST

\_\_\_ Did you check the weather forecast?

\_\_\_ Radio onboard to receive weather updates.

## DOCKING AND ANCHORING

\_\_\_ At least one anchor set up and bent-on to your anchor line.

\_\_\_ Check anchor line is secured to a cleat

\_\_\_ Two or three extra dock lines in case of unusual conditions dockside.

\_\_\_ Visually inspect the lines you use for chafe or wear.

\_\_\_ At least two fenders onboard for docking or towing if required.

\_\_\_ A throwing aid (i.e. small weight) and light line for aid in throwing the docking or towing lines.

\_\_\_ Sea Anchor

\_\_\_ Safety harness and lines for crew and passengers

## DOCUMENTATION

\_\_\_ Have the ship's papers, registration, radio license, license or boating safety course I.D., fishing permit, etc. onboard.

\_\_\_ Have the chart or charts for the area you intend to cruise in, regardless of your level of local knowledge.

\_\_\_ Spare charts, spare GPS, a backup nav system

\_\_\_ Spare compass, LED flashlight for reading

## BOATING OFFSHORE –

EPIRB and Life raft

## TRAILER BOATING

- Before leaving home:

\_\_\_ Is the battery charged?

\_\_\_ Do you have the keys to the boat?

\_\_\_ Is the plug in the boat?

## TRAILER CHECKS

\_\_\_ Check tire pressure and grease wheel bearings.

\_\_\_ Make sure hitch is secure and safety chains attached.

\_\_\_ Make sure boat is tied down properly.

\_\_\_ **LOOK BEFORE BACKING UP.**

## SAILING VESSELS

\_\_\_ Check sails, lines, sheets, and rigging.

\_\_\_ Do not forget the tiller and centerboard.

\_\_\_ **WATCH FOR OVERHEAD POWER LINES** when raising the mast.

\_\_\_ Have you filed your float plan with a responsible person?

## CREW AND PASSENGER PRE-DEPARTURE CLASS

\_\_\_ **Acquaint all passengers with use and location of safety equipment, radio, docking & undocking plans, etc.**

\_\_\_ **Check for medications for crew and passengers**

\_\_\_ **Water for drinking**

\_\_\_ **Spray bottles or other cooling aids**

\_\_\_ **Emergency contact information**

\_\_\_ **Hats, gloves, etc.**

\_\_\_ **Foul weather clothing**

## SUGGESTED TESTS

\_\_\_ **All VHF, SSB Radios (receiving and transmitting)**

\_\_\_ **Navigation Lights**

\_\_\_ **Navigation Electronics**

\_\_\_ **Horn**

\_\_\_ **Flashlights**