



## Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

[www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm)

### Survive The Boating Season With Risk Management

There are numerous hazards associated with recreational boating. If they are not reduced, the risks involved can be catastrophic. The most serious and common risk is drowning. Read on to learn ways to manage some of these risks.

- 1. Hazard:** Falling overboard. For example, if you stand too close to the side of a boat in rough water without a life jacket.
  - **Risk:** Drowning. Nationwide statistics reveal 53 percent of boating accident victims drowned, 39 percent suffered trauma, and the remaining 9 percent died of other causes.
  - **Controls:** Wear your life jacket, be seated in rough water, and require others to do so.
- 2. Hazard:** Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
  - **Risks:** Collision, swamping, or falling overboard resulting in sinking, injuries, or drowning. Also consider the result of arrest and punishment for boating under the influence (BUI). Nationwide, one-third of boating fatalities are alcohol related. It is illegal in all 50 states to operate a boat, or permit others to do so, while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or barbiturates. Penalties are severe for those caught, even more so if an impaired operator kills or seriously injures someone.
  - **Controls:** Use non-alcoholic beverages. Operating a boat doesn't need an artificial stimulus to make it fun. Remember that intoxicated passengers can fall overboard too. A sober designated driver is the absolute minimum control for safe boat operation.
- 3. Hazard:** Operating a boat during stormy weather.
  - **Risks :** Swamping, falling overboard, lightning strike, or other events resulting in injuries, sinking, or drowning. By its very nature, weather is dynamic and constantly changing. The possibility of a thunderstorm during a boat outing is a serious hazard that absolutely needs your consideration.
  - **Controls:** Check current weather and the forecast before launching and heading out onto the water. Know before you go! If you're out on the water, at first sign of lightning or stormy weather, head for shore!