Fire Prevention Checklist for Boaters

Keep your boat fire-safe by using the following checklist:

Safety equipment

- Check the gauge on all fire extinguishers to ensure they are fully charged
- Shake the fire extinguisher to keep the powder inside loose and ready to use
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Electrical

- Use marine-grade wiring and inspect your cords, plugs, and batteries for signs of wear
- Replace the voltage regulator on older outboard motors
- Know the capabilities of your batteries and install a gauge to make sure you do not over draw your power. Do not use a power strip
- Buy marine grade heaters and make sure they have a fail switch
- Never leave a heater on while you are asleep or away from the boat
- Ensure shore power cables are secured tightly and locked in place

Engine

- Check the cooling and exhaust systems
- Install an audible engine temperature alarm and observe temperature gauges
- Run the blower for a minimum of four minutes prior to ignition to dissipate any fumes that may have built up

Cooking and fuel burning appliances

- Only cook in a well-ventilated area if you are using fuel burning appliances
- Secure fuel tanks and portable appliances when not in use
- Do not leave the fuel burning appliances unattended when in use
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for use and installation

Fuelling

- Be sure all motors and electrical items are off during fueling
- Run blower after the fueling process
- Install gasoline vapor detectors

Other

- Check the bilge for any smells or leaks related to a build-up of propane or butane
- Clean the bilge and use oil absorbent pads
- Keep your boat clear of clutter, especially near exits

The Office of Boating Safety (OBS) helps boaters stay safe on the water and publishes the Safe Boating Guide.

OBS can help you with: Pleasure Craft Licensing, Pleasure Craft Operator Competency, knowing what safety equipment is required on board your vessel, and how to prepare yourself for a day on the water.

Contact OBS:

Email: PACOBS@TC.GC.CA Phone: 604-666-2681 Visit the Transport Canada website for more information on pleasure craft regulations and requirements, including safety equipment, navigation and more: https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/office-boating-safety









