



Marine Reader Series

Better Boating Behaviour



Bob Moffatt

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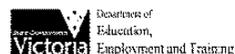
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Better Boating Behaviour



Bob Moffatt

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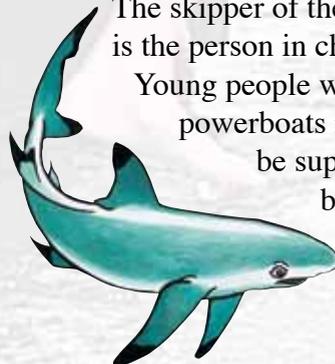


This book is about how to be safe on a small powerboat.

People need training to drive a powerboat and quite often they need a licence too.

The skipper of the vessel is the person in charge.

Young people who drive powerboats need to be supervised by trained skippers.



Why safety is important

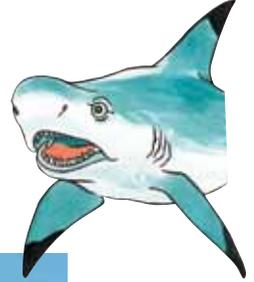
Power boating fun and safety go together.

For example fuel tanks and gas bottles in boats can be very dangerous so we must behave safely when we are in motor boats.

This picture shows what can happen in a small powerboat when the fuel tank blows up.

So better boating behaviour means we should never use a naked flame near fuel tanks or gas bottles.

Why is it important to know how to use safety equipment?



Types of safety equipment

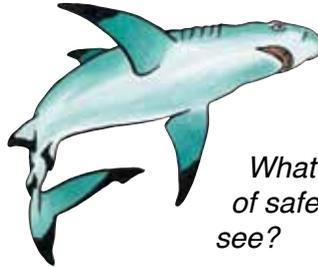
To have fun and be safe in boats, you need to know where to locate, and how to use the safety equipment.

Safety equipment is used when there is an emergency on board a boat.

This picture shows some safety equipment used on boats. For example, the V sheet is for signalling.

A boat has a chart so the skipper can keep the boat on the right course. There are personal flotation devices for everyone on board.

Can you find these in the picture below?
Chart (1), Oars (2), Flares (3),
Anchor (4), V sheet (5), Buckets (6).



Can you see a torch, water bottle and rope in the picture? What are they used for?

What other very important piece of safety equipment can you see?



Some safety equipment



Don't forget to put on your hats and sunscreen when you go boating

Personal flotation devices

Personal flotation devices help people float if they fall overboard. All boats should have enough personal flotation devices to fit everyone on board.

Personal flotation devices are made from tough waterproof material. Special foam in the jacket makes it float. Clips and straps on the personal flotation device help it fit tightly.

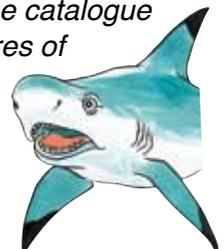
There are three types of PFD.

- PFD 1 has a collar and is designed to keep your head in a safe floating position.
- PFD 2 is like a PFD 1 but does not have a collar.
- PFD 3 is a lightweight vest to allow greater arm movements for sports people such as waterskiers.

PFD's are also called Life Jackets

Draw up a table with three columns with the headings – type of PFD, features and place where PFD can be used. Then complete it for the three PFDs on this page.

Use a marine catalogue to find pictures of each and paste them into your table.



One size doesn't fit all

Personal flotation devices are made in different sizes. It is important to wear one that fits.

To test the fit of a personal flotation device, raise your arms above your head as shown in the picture below.

If the jacket slips off, it is too large and will be no use in an emergency. Be especially careful that personal flotation devices are the right fit for children and poor swimmers.

The picture on the right highlights standards information sewn on the inside of the jacket. Personal flotation devices must have this tag to show they are manufactured to the correct standards.



Standards information



Children and poor swimmers should always wear a PFD in a boat



What is a simple test to see if a personal flotation device is the right size?

What does the standards information label explain?

Learning how to use a PFD

When your personal flotation device is correctly fitted, you can test its buoyancy in the pool or in the water off a jetty.

To practise jumping into the water in a personal flotation device, firmly grip the front panels.

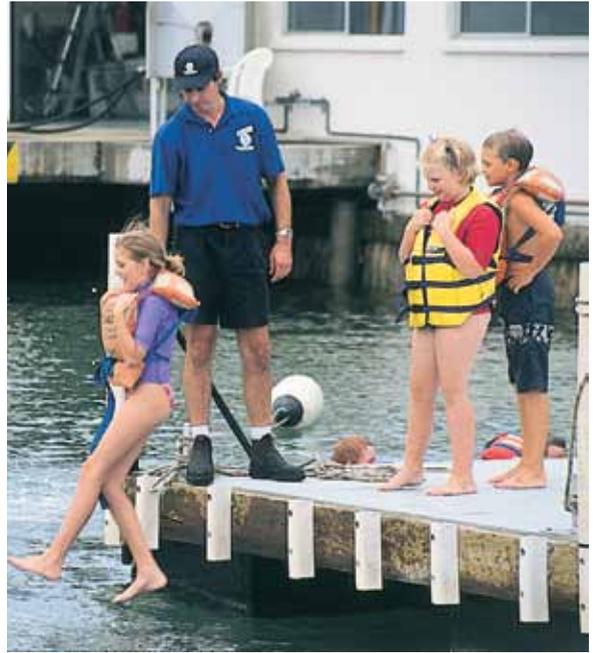
Pull down on the jacket with your arms tucked in tight and jump into the water with your feet straddled, like the girl in the picture on the right.

When your group is in the water, practise making a circle by holding onto everyone's personal flotation device.

This circle can be useful in colder water because groups keep warm by huddling together.

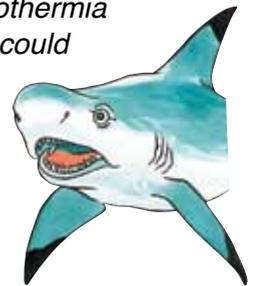
Don't just rely on your personal flotation device.

If you go boating you also need to know how to swim and signal for help.



Using a PFD to jump into the water

Look up the word hypothermia in the dictionary. How could hypothermia be reduced by people huddling in the water?



Stay together

Inflatable PFDs

Normal personal flotation devices can be too bulky to wear all the time. Inflatable personal flotation devices are small and convenient, and can be inflated quickly. These personal flotation devices hold a container of compressed gas that inflates the jacket.

Personal flotation devices have reflective tape so they can be seen at night with strong lights.

Personal flotation devices need to be worn all the time at sea because the weather can change quickly.

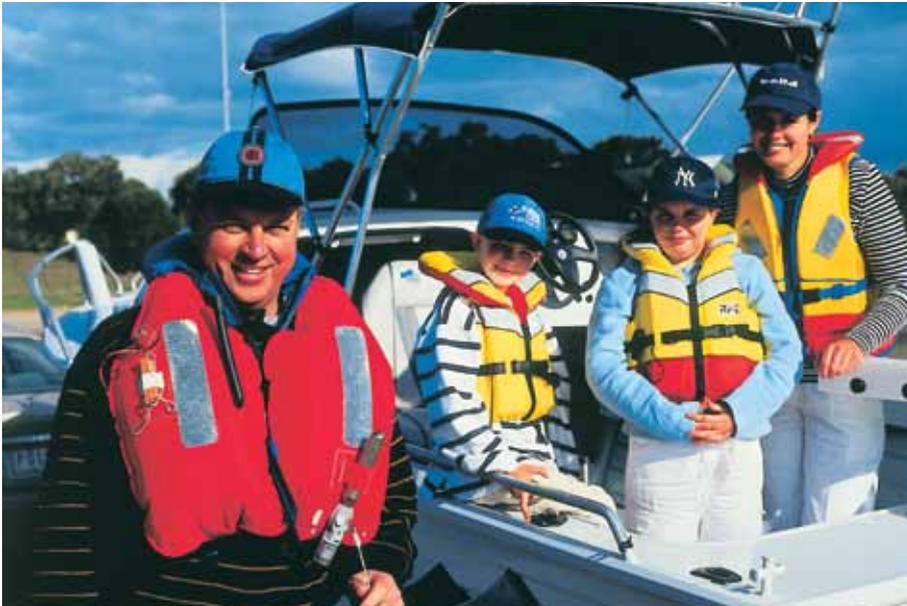
The skipper

The skipper is the person in charge of the powerboat. He or she has been trained to operate the boat. The skipper is responsible for the safety of the passengers and crew.

The skipper must make sure that there are enough personal flotation devices for everyone.



Before inflation



After inflation

On the boat ramp

The boat ramp can be a very dangerous place.

Marine plants, such as algae, grow on the concrete surface and make it slippery. When you are on the wet part of the boat ramp, hold onto something, like the sides of the trailer or boat, to keep your balance.

There are often old fishing hooks, broken pieces of glass, and broken concrete on boat ramps. These can cut the skin and cause deep wounds. Marine bacteria may enter the cut. Sometimes it takes months for the wound to heal.

Wear shoes with rubber non-slip soles and look carefully for dangers whenever you are on a boat ramp.



Rubber soled shoes with a good grip will prevent you from slipping



Make sure you hold on to something while you are on the wet surface of the boat ramp

What are two things you can do on a boat ramp to stop you slipping over?



In the water

Small boats tip over easily when people get in and out. If you are the first person on board, lean over on the opposite side when other people get in.

Wash the mud from your feet before stepping into the boat. This keeps the boat clean and less slippery.



Balance the boat when others get in

Once in the boat, everyone needs to remain seated while the skipper starts the motor.

Most small outboard motors are started with a pull cord located on the motor. If you are sitting near the skipper, make sure the skipper has enough space to pull-start the motor without hitting you.

What might happen if the girl in this photo sits nearer the boy starting the motor?





Find something to hold onto and help balance the boat and then sit down when the boat is underway

Underway

People moving around in small boats affect the balance of the boat. Boats tip very easily in the water, even large powerboats.

When the boat is moored at the jetty and when it is under way, everyone needs to be seated to keep the boat balanced.

Find something to hold onto and help balance the boat.

What type of PFDs are the people in the boat wearing?



Emergency signalling

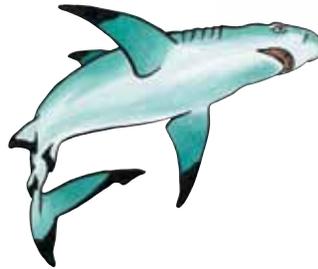
If the motor on a powerboat breaks down, the crew will need to get help.

One way to attract attention is to wave your arms and hands from side to side as shown in the picture.

A better way of attracting attention is to use a V-sheet. The safety kit should include a red and black V-sheet.

To attract attention, fix the V-sheet over the boat's windscreen so it can be seen by passing planes and boats.

This safety method is called emergency signalling.



What other types of signalling equipment are in this picture?



One way to signal for help is to wave your arms from side to side

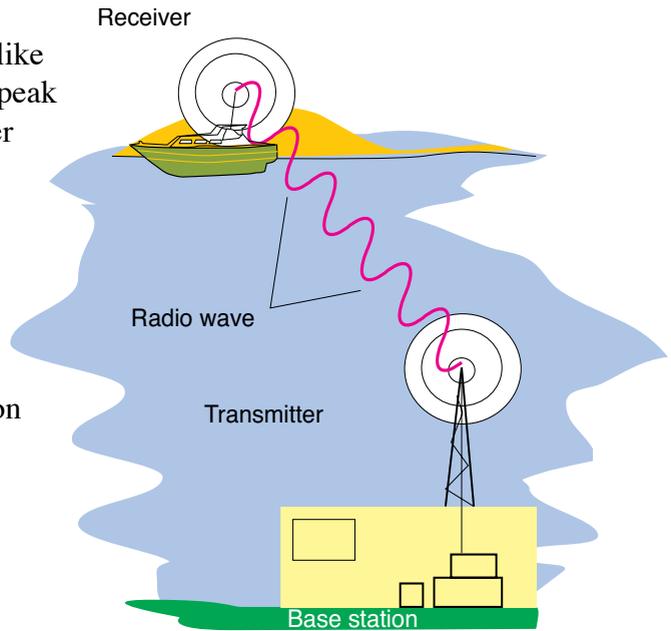
Radios

A marine radio is used to send and receive messages. The radio is not like a telephone. Only one person can speak at a time, and everyone on the water listening to that channel can hear what you have to say!

People who use radios are called radio operators. The radio operator will switch to a specific channel to talk on. They only speak for a very short time while 'on air'.

The radio has a number of radio stations. These radio stations are called channels.

One very important channel is the emergency and listening channel. This channel is used only in emergencies or to contact another operator for a brief time to agree to speak on another channel.



Principles of radio transmission



Flares

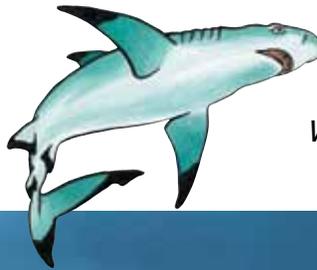
Flares are like fireworks. Sailors set them off to let people know they are in trouble and need help. Safety flares can be orange or red. Red flares are used at night; orange flares by day. A special flare called a rocket flare is used to attract attention when you are far out at sea.

The burning part of flares becomes very hot and bright. It will burn you if you handle it carelessly.

The cover of each flare carries a use-by date. The skipper of the vessel is responsible for checking these use-by dates.



An orange smoke flare



When should a red flare be set off?

When is a rocket flare used?

When is an orange flare used?



This family is learning how to use a red flare from local water police

Better boating behaviour

Being on boats is lots of fun for everyone, especially if everyone is on their better boating behaviour.

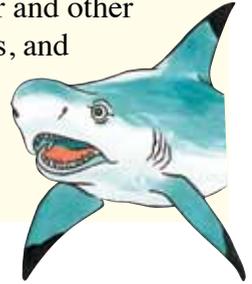
Better boating behaviour means that you:

- are able to swim
- know how to call out for help
- can select a PFD that is the right size
- can ask the skipper how to use important safety equipment and
- are able to get into and out of a small boat.

Don't destroy what you came to enjoy

Throwing rubbish overboard from a boat is illegal. You must collect all your rubbish in bags and return it to rubbish bins or recycling containers back on land.

Help our environment: separate out metal cans, cardboard, paper and other recyclables from food scraps, and use recycling bins.



Take all rubbish home and put it out with the garbage and recycling

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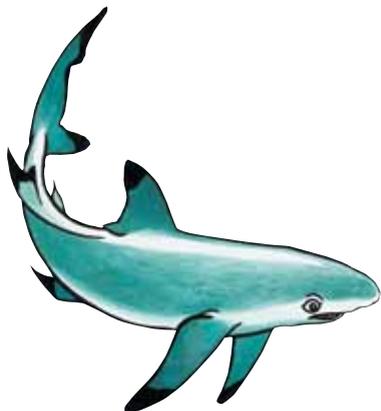
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