

Safe Boating on Lake Tippecanoe

LTPA has a responsibility to help protect the lake from irresponsible people and careless actions that endanger lives and property. The best protection is knowledge and a regard for the Boating Safety Laws. This contains information on Indiana Boating Regulations that are in addition to the Federal Requirements. Indiana and federal boating laws are presented in a summarized form. The laws in their entirety can be found by consulting Indiana State Law. These laws are subject to change. It is the responsibility of the operator to be aware of the most current laws when using a boat. The Lake Association also maintains patrol boats, which are assigned to the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department.

AGE RESTRICTIONS:

An individual must hold a valid Driver's License if operating a boat with an engine rated at ten (10) horsepower or more. Exception: An individual who is at least fifteen (15) yrs old and has successfully completed a boating education course approved by DNR and carries an Indiana ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES:

All boats must be equipped with at least one (1) properly fitting approved PFD for each person on board. In addition, boats sixteen (16) feet in length or larger must be equipped with at least one (1) approved throwable type PFD.

REGISTRATION:

All motorboats must be registered and numbered. These registration numbers and letters must be attached or painted on each side of the forward half of the motorboat, they must be at least three (3) inches in size, readable from left to right, and be of a contrasting color to the hull. The excise decals are placed to the right of and three (3) inches from the end of the registration numbers. Only the current year excise decal should be displayed.

ACCIDENT REPORTING:

An individual involved in a watercraft accident/collision that results in an injury or death of a person or damage to another boat or property to an apparent extent of at least seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) must stop at the scene or immediately return and remain at the scene after reporting the accident to the office of the sheriff, state police or conservation office by quickest means of communication.

- The individual shall provide reasonable assistance to any person injured or damage to another boat or property of any dollar amount and give his full name and address, an identification of the watercraft operated and the name and address of the owner of the watercraft

RECKLESS OPERATION:

Always operate boat in a careful and prudent manner, having due regard for the rights, safety and property of other persons.

Reckless Operation Examples:

- Excessive speed
- Under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Operating in a manner that may cause an accident or endangers life or property
- Steering a PWC toward an object or another individual and then turning sharply at close range

BOATING WHILE INTOXICATED:

A blood alcohol content level of .08 or more is considered under the influence. BWI is at least a Misdemeanor offense. Refusal to submit to a chemical test may result in the loss of operating privileges for one (1) year.

EXHAUST MUFFLER

REQUIRED:

Boat must have a device that muffles or suppresses the motor sound at all speeds. Muffler cutouts or bypasses aren't legal, even if they are factory installed.



CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS :

Do not swim or wade near a boat's exhaust pipe, sit on the swim platform when the engine is running, or hold onto the deck while the boat is moving. Keep your boat a minimum of 20 feet from the nearest running generator or engine. Never, ever enter the enclosed exhaust vent area under a swim platform! Exhaust from boat engines can be deadly sources of carbon monoxide poisoning.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE OR ECO-ZONE:

- No individual may operate a motorboat within two hundred (200) feet of shore unless leaving or approaching the dock or shore, or as an active fisherman trolling
- In addition, an individual may not operate a motorboat while leaving or approaching the dock or shore at a speed other than idle speed
- Heed all Idle Zones and avoid the Eco -Zones

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC's):

The below listed rules are in addition to all of the other boating regulations and requirements the PWC operators must obey.

No individual shall:

- Steer a PWC toward an object or another individual and then turn sharply at close range
- Operate a PWC while facing rearward
- Tow another person engaged in water-skiing, tubing or similar activity unless the PWC is at least nine (9) feet in length, designed to seat at least three (3) people and with an observer other than the operator on board
- Operate, ride on or be towed by a PWC unless wearing an approved personal flotation device
- Operate a PWC between legal sunset and sunrise unless equipped with and operating proper lighting

WATER SKING/TUBING ETC.:

- When towing an individual, an observer, other than the operator, must be on board giving their entire attention to watching the object or person being towed
- Person being towed must wear an approved Personal Flotation Device

BOAT LIGHTS REQUIRED:

All motorboats being operated between the hours of legal sunset and legal sunrise must display a white light aft, visible for a distance of at least two (2) miles. All boats equipped with a motor or engine rated at least fifteen (15) horsepower must display a combination light forward showing green to starboard and red to port.

PONTOON DOCKING LIGHTS

Use pontoon docking lights for docking only. Do not drive with the pontoon docking lights on, as they may blind other boaters and overpower the red, green, and white navigation lights that help other boaters determine the pontoon's position, speed, and direction of travel.

SPEED LIMITS AFTER LEGAL SUNSET:

No individual may operate a motorboat or PWC between the hours of legal sunset and legal sunrise at a speed in excess of ten (10) miles per hour.

HAZARDOUS WAKE OR WASH:

No individual may operate a motorboat in such a manner or at such a speed as to create a hazardous wake or wash.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

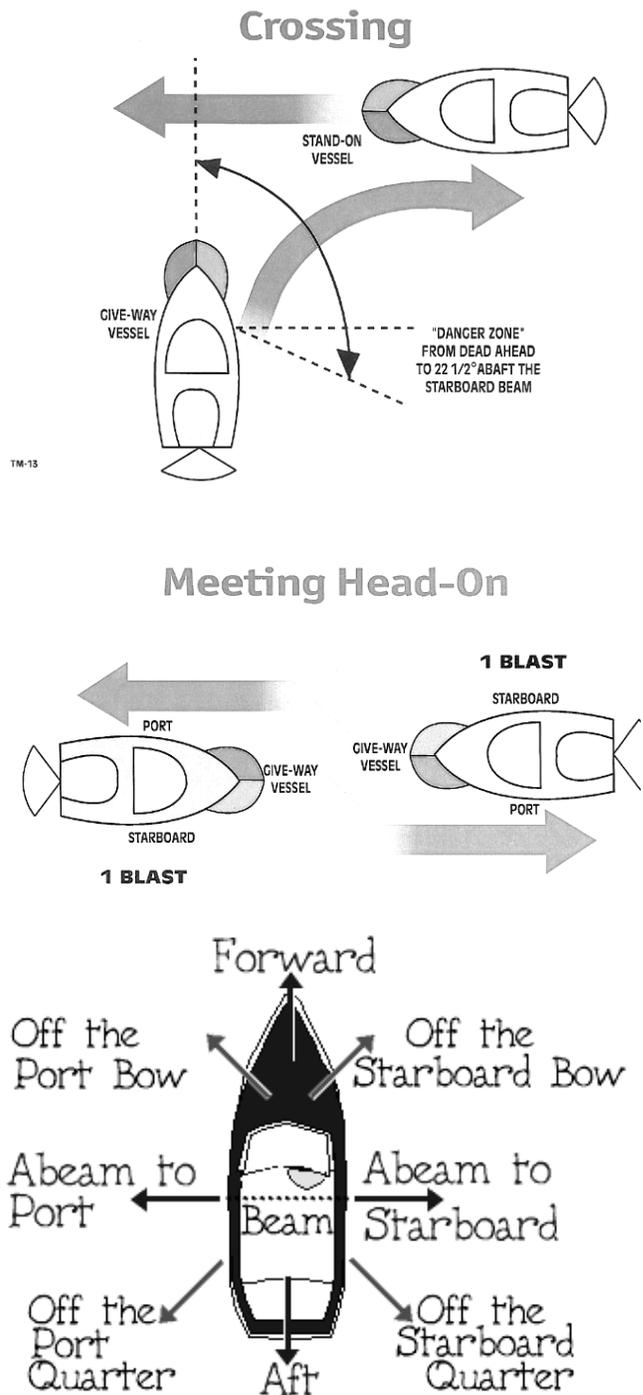
- **LITTERING:** In the operation of a watercraft please do not throw or deposit any litter, filth or unwholesome substance in the water or upon the banks.
- **WANTON WASTE:** Intentional waste or destruction of fish is prohibited by law.
- **AQUATIC LIFE:** Pay particular attention to where you dump your bilge water or the water from your live well. Any fish parts, including entrails, must not be discarded into any water, but should be disposed of in a sanitary manner.
- **EXOTIC SPECIES:** Do not empty bait buckets containing any live minnows into the public waters. Don't be guilty of "biological littering"; i.e. releasing aquarium pets or catches from other water into the lake. Report any exotic fish catches to the DNR, or freeze the fish and call the nearest fisheries biologist or conservation officer.
- **ZEBRA MUSSELS:** Inspect your boat and trailer for any weeds and remove. Flush your cooling system, bilge areas, and live wells with tap water. Clean your hull and motor by washing with hot water and then let dry.

The Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department will be noticeably visible on the lake throughout the boating season to provide you with a safe and enjoyable summer. If you need immediate assistance, call the Sheriff's Office at

(574) 267-5667

If Emergency

Dial **911**



Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department

Safe Boating Checklist

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

- One properly sized PFD per passenger (Type I, II, III, or V)
- Throwable flotation device (if boat >16 feet)
- Don't overload the boat with passengers or equipment

Navigation & Lighting

- Navigation lights operational (red, green, & white)
- Instrument and dash lights operational
- Learn and use proper navigation rules

Communication

- Cell Phone (with emergency numbers)
- VHF Marine Radio
- GPS/map of area/known landmarks/compass
- Signal device/Flashlight

Registration, License, and Documentation

- Registration papers on board
- Registration # properly displayed (size, spacing, contrast)
- Excise decal properly displayed (right of "IN #")
- Valid driver's license
- Indiana I.D. card & safe boating card (if applicable)
- Insurance coverage (no proof required on board)
- Fishing license (if applicable)

Docking and Anchor

- Anchor(s) with anchor line (proper length and size)
- Two or more dock lines in good repair
- Fenders for docking or towing
- Towline or Heaving line

Weather Forecast/Planning

- Did you leave a note or float plan with someone on shore?
- Did you check the weather forecast?
- Radio on board to receive weather alerts?

Boat and Equipment

- Check fuel level and gauges
- Check the engine oil and coolant level
- Check for oil or fuel leaks (sight and smell)
- Hoses, belts, exhaust, and muffler in good repair
- Batteries fully charged and in good condition
- Manual and automatic bilge pump operational
- Check the blowers for several minutes
- Are all interior spaces well ventilated?
- Check steering and throttle controls
- Horn audible for at least 1/2 mile
- Kill switch/wrist lanyard operational (PWC)
- Garbage receptacle or head in good order

Emergency Preparedness

- First aid kit with basic supplies & medications
- Clean drinking water
- Sunscreen/Sun hat
- Fire extinguisher, accessible and charged
- Alternate propulsion (oars, paddle, spare prop)
- Basic tool kit
- Reserve fuel, oil, & critical spare parts
- Brief crew on location of equipment

Emergency contact numbers:

POLICE, FIRE, or EMS Emergencies:

911

Department of Natural Resources North
Region Headquarters at Peru, IN:

765-473-9722

Department of Natural Resources District
One Headquarters at Lake Wawasee:

574-457-8092

Indiana State Police, Bremen Post:

1-800-552-2959

Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department:

574-267-5667

DRINKING AND BOATING **IS A CRIME!**



HAVE A PLAN **THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK**

It's dangerous to operate a boat when drinking. Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a violation of Indiana law. An operator with a blood alcohol content of .08 (equivalent to consuming five beers in one hour for the average 180-lb. male) is ten times more likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol level.

Lake Courtesy:

- ✓ Non-swimmers and children should always wear a PFD (Life Vest)
- ✓ Learn the boating navigation rules
- ✓ Take a safe boating course
- ✓ Know the lake depths or avoid any unfamiliar areas
- ✓ Pay attention to the idle speed zones (Slowest speed possible)
- ✓ Watch your speed between dusk and dawn (10 MPH)
- ✓ Boating is not permitted within 200 feet of the shoreline (except for trolling, leaving, or approaching a dock)
- ✓ Never throw trash or any waste in the lake
- ✓ Never spill fuel or oil in the lake
- ✓ Watch your wake both on the surface and below the water
- ✓ You are responsible for any damage from your wake
- ✓ Sound travels great distances over the water, respect your lake neighbors and show restraint with loud radios or mufflers
- ✓ Be courteous and let all enjoy the lake



Be Aware of Carbon Monoxide

All boat engines produce Carbon Monoxide (CO)—an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas that can kill you in a matter of minutes. Boaters are killed every year because of improper cabin ventilation, poorly maintained equipment, and careless behavior.

You do not have to be inside the boat to be at risk. Overexposure of CO can cause unconsciousness in less than a minute. (If an unconscious person is in the water, drowning will likely follow soon after). Boaters have died from exposure while on the swim platforms of their boats and in other areas where CO exhaust may accumulate or be emitted. Be aware of the early symptoms (irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness). Use CO detectors on your cabin boats and stay off the swim platform when the engine (or generator) is running.

Take a Safe **Boating Course**



Seventy percent of recreational boating accidents are caused by operator factors — such as failure to pay attention, carelessness, recklessness, inexperience, excessive speed, and failure to watch for hazards. Boating safety courses are available, free, and quick—a great way for you to learn safety and the rules of the road.

Marinas:

Clarks Marina: 574-834-2491
Patona Bay Resort: 574-453-3970
Pie Eyed Petey's: 574-453-9741
Pro Wake Water Sports: 574-834-1334
Tippecanoe Boat Company: 574-834-2271