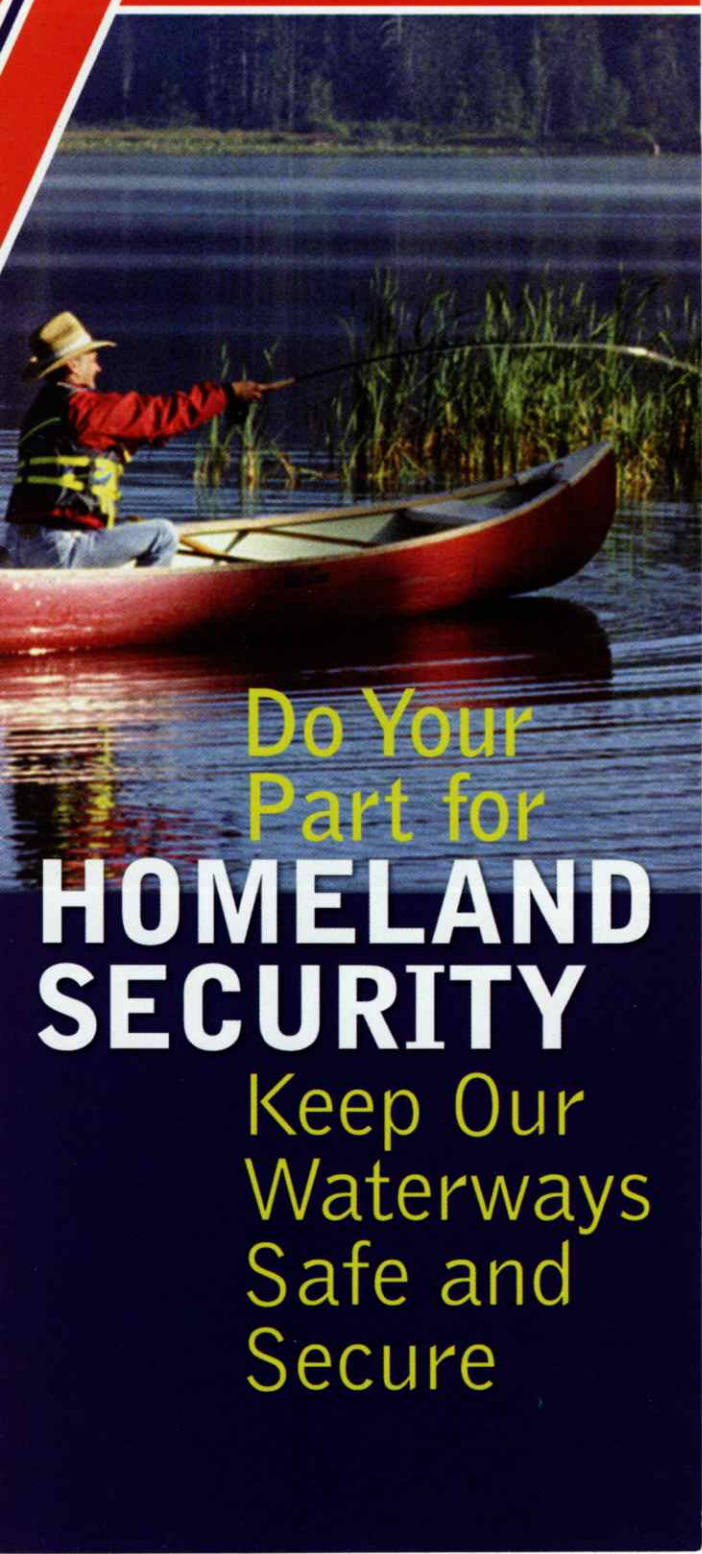




U.S. COAST GUARD



Do Your
Part for

HOMELAND SECURITY

Keep Our
Waterways
Safe and
Secure



Specific Ways You Can Help :

Keep your distance from all military, cruise-line, or commercial shipping vessels! Do not approach within **100 yards**. Slow to minimum speed within **500 yards** of any large U.S. naval vessel, including any U.S. military or military supply vessel over 100 feet. Violators of the Naval Vessel Protection Zone face up to 6 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, not to mention a quick and severe response. Approaching certain other commercial vessels may result in an immediate boarding, so **keep well away** of shipping or cruise-line traffic.

Observe and avoid all security zones. Avoid port operation areas, especially those that involve military, cruise-line, or petroleum facilities. Observe and avoid other restricted areas near dams, power plants, etc. Violators will be seen as a threat, and will face a quick and severe response. For information on special restrictions in port areas, call 1.800.682.1796 or go to: www.uscg.mil/safeports/, or check with local authorities.

Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel. If you do, then expect to be boarded by law enforcement officials.

Keep a sharp eye out for anything that looks peculiar or out of the ordinary. Immediately report all activities that seem suspicious to local authorities, the Coast Guard, or port or marina security officials. Or call the National Response Center's Terrorist Hotline at 1.800.424.8802. Do not approach or challenge those acting in a suspicious manner.

Always secure and lock your boat when not on board. This includes while visiting marina restaurants or a friend's dock or other piers. Never leave your boat accessible to others. Always take the keys to the boat with you.

When storing your boat, make sure it is secure and its engine is disabled. If it is on a trailer, make the trailer as immovable as possible.



How else can you help? Make sure your boat meets all safety requirements and regulations.

Getting a Vessel Safety Check is an important first step. You can arrange for this free check by contacting your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadrons®.

Know and obey the navigation rules by taking a boating safety class.

To learn more about boating classes in your area, call 1.800.336.2628.

Remain sober and alert when on the water.

Don't drink and boat. Stay in control of your craft and respect the rights of other boaters. Be aware of how environmental stressors like vibration, engine noise, sun, wind, and spray can intensify the effects of alcohol and certain prescription medications.

Wear your life jacket at all times

while out on the water! The single biggest cause of boating deaths is drowning due to unexpected entry into the water. So, do yourself and your loved ones a favor. Find a well-fitting life jacket. There's one for every budget. And wear it!





Immediately report the following:

Suspicious persons conducting unusual activities, such as near bridges or high security areas on or near the water.

Individuals establishing roadside stands near marinas or other waterfront facilities.

Unknown persons photographing or creating diagrams of such things as the underside of bridges, the area around nuclear power plants, and waterfront facilities near military, cruise-line, or commercial vessels.

Unknown or suspicious persons loitering for extended periods of time in waterfront areas.

Suspicious persons renting or attempting to procure or "borrow" watercraft.

Suspicious vendors attempting to sell/deliver merchandise or drop off packages in waterfront areas.

If you observe dangerous behavior on or near the waterfront, contact local law enforcement immediately!

You Play a Critical Role

As a recreational boater, angler, or other outdoor enthusiast on or near the water, you have an important role to play in helping to keep our waterways safe and secure.

Be on the Alert

Going out on the water offers many opportunities for fun and relaxation. It's part of our American way of life! Unfortunately, the water can also present opportunities for unlawful or dangerous activities. For this reason, the U.S. Coast Guard and other first responders are asking you to increase your level of awareness of your surroundings anytime you are on or near the water.

By taking note of the activities going on around you as you boat, fish, or paddle, you can quickly alert local authorities in time to prevent a dangerous situation from occurring.

Why Your Actions Matter

Boating safely is no accident! Just by taking a few simple steps to be more "in command" of your boat, jet ski, or paddlecraft this year, you can help reduce the demands on rescue resources. So, do your part to support first responders in the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, park services, state and local marine police, and others in keeping our waterways safe and secure.

Be alert and boat safely!

For more information on how you can help call 1-800-368-5647 or visit www.uscgboating.org.



Brought to you by the U.S. Coast Guard.

