Sailing Program Safety: Ten Safety Action Steps for this Season

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Ten Safety Action Steps for this Season

1. Drones
2. Emergency Action Plans
3. VHF Radio Usage
4. Docks, Floats & Boat Racks
5. Electric Shock Drowning
6. Electrical Cords
7. Electrocution
8. Fire Extinguishers
9. Flammables & Gas Storage
10. Prop Guards

Bonus: Safety Tools & Templates
Understand Drone Safety & Liability Exposures

Drones Safety Action Steps

• **Get Licensed:** In most cases, drone usage by a sailing organization comes under the FAA’s Commercial usage definition and requires the drone operator to be licensed.

• **Register Your Drones:** All drones weighing more than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound and less than 55 pounds must be **registered with FAA** and marked with a registration #.

• **Follow FAA Drone Operating Rules:** The FAA provides rules and regs for drone operation which apply to both commercial and recreational drone usage.

• **Understand Your Liability Exposure:** Flying a drone without coverage can expose you, your assets, and your organization to lawsuits and claims for bodily injury or property damage.

• **Get the Insurance Coverage You Need:** Drones are often excluded from standard liability policies; organizations and individuals need standalone drone insurance:

  1. **Verify Episodic Drone Insurance.** Policies purchased for a specific time window (1, 4, or 8 hours) and specific usage area (¼ mile to 2 mile radius circles). Policies are purchased using the Verifly App or online at [www.verifly.com/gowrie](http://www.verifly.com/gowrie) and use code “Gowrie”

Emergency Action Plan: Team with Local Authorities

Develop and Document a Plan:

• Start with a Template (from another club or Gowrie/Burgee Program)

• Work with local emergency authorities (Coast Guard, fire department, police, harbor master)

• Determine optimal location(s) for emergency transfers

• Document and review how to contact each authority (phone, VHF, 911)

• Review how jurisdictions change from water to land

• Teamwork = local emergency authorities want to work with you!
Practice Your EAP: Conduct a Pre-Season Drill

Emergency Safety Drill, Pequot Yacht Club, CT, 2018
Train Your Team on VHF & Location Awareness

Implement VHF Best Practices:

- **Assign a specific radio** to each staff member
- Mandate **radio checks** by your staff before leaving the dock
- Know **which VHF stations** are in use by all departments
- Know and respect **emergency VFH channels** (16, 13, 9, 22a)
- Know **proper VHF language** (Mayday, PanPan, Over)
- Know how and when to use **Hi/Low** power
- Always **wear your VHF** on the dock and water!

Make sure your seasonal staff knows where they are:

- Know your **location’s physical address** (town, state, cross-streets)
- Know the **number/names of the closest government buoys**
- Use **visual landmarks** to clarify
- Know how to **drop a waypoint on your GPS**
- Know how to determine your **Lat/Long**
Follow OSHA Standards and Building Codes for Docks, Floats and Racks

Key Safety Topics:
• Slips, trips and falls
• Lines
• PFD’s
• Fire Extinguishers
• Life Rings
• Railings vs. Jungle Gyms
• Escape Ladders

Download Gowrie Dock Safety report
Prevent Electric Shock Drowning

Steps to Prevent Electric Shock Drowning (ESD):

• **Post “No Swimming” signs** on/near docks powered by 120v AC power

• Make sure **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) are installed** on shore power pedestals and marina wiring circuits

• Have your **powered docks inspected by qualified electricians** who are familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes

• Have **boats inspected** by an electrician with current ABYC Electrical Certification or an ABYC Certified Technician

• Always select **safe locations for JR Sailing Swim Tests** (never on powered docks; always in shallow/calm water)

• Connect with **Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association**

• Download our **Gowrie ESD Safety** report

Understand OSHA’s Guidelines for Use of Electrical Cords and Extension Cords

Download our Electrical Cords Safety report
Respect Electricity

Take Action - Prevent Electrocution of Sailors:

• Conduct an annual walk-through inspection of all dry-sail areas, parking lots, and launching areas for overhead wires, transmission lines, and power lines

• Post signage and implement safety measures to identify and mitigate any electrical safety hazards

• Remind instructors and sailors to look-up for overhead wires and hazards every time when unloading, rigging, launching, and derigging (especially in new locations and when traveling)
Comply with OSHA’s Fire Extinguishers Standards

Key Safety Topics:
• Placement
• Clearance
• Type
• Training
• Inspection

Check to see if your Kidde branded extinguishers were RECALLED (11/2/17)

Download our Fire Extinguishers Safety report
Ensure Flammables and Gas are Safely Stored & Handled
Prop Guards: Consider Installing on Safety Boats & Teach Safe Boating

Know the Facts:

• **Propeller Accident Stats:** For 2017, the USCG reported 172 propeller accidents, 162 injuries, and 31 fatalities.

• **Suffolk County New York Signs Prop Guard Legislation** (August 2018): In response to Centerport Yacht Club tragedy, law requires prop guards on vessels in Suffolk Country waterways used to instruct children under age 18.

Develop a Culture of Safe Boating at Your Organization:

• **Train your staff** on powerboat skills – host a US Powerboating Class on-site for your staff each summer!

• Consider installing **prop guards** on boats used around children

• Require sailing coaches and staff to use **engine cutoff “kill” switches**

• Before starting engines, **check the area** around the propeller

• Never approach anyone in the water in **reverse**

• **Never put the boat in gear** if swimmer or sailor is nearby in water or on swim platform

• **Stop the engine** when there is a risk of contact with someone who is in the water

• Do not allow anyone to **bow-ride or ride on the gunwales**

• **Do not allow anyone to sit on the pontoons of a RIB**

• **Communicate changes** in direction or speed to passengers
Provide Your Team with Emergency & Safety Tools

Suggested Instructor Safety Equipment – Everyday Kit/Backpack (if your budget allows):

- Waterproof backpack or bag
- First aid kit (band aids, gauze, scissors, gloves, mask, tweezers, cold pack, etc.)
- Grease pencil (for writing on wet boats, “X” on hull = already searched)
- Basic tool kit (screwdriver, vice grips, duck tape, tell tails, extra small line, etc.)
- Rigging knife or Gil Personal Rescue Knife
- Whistle
- Water
- VHF Radio (and radio check)
- PFD
- Emergency Action Plan/Card
- Mask/Googles
- Standard small boat equipment (anchor, tow rope, flares (on boats 16’+), compass, paddle, throwable floatation aid, hand pump, etc.)
- Safety Check-Lists
## Utilize Check Lists: Weekly and Self-Evaluation

### Download our Weekly Safety List template

[Image of check list]

### Bonus Tools: 11

Download our Weekly Safety List template
Designate a Safety Coordinator & Implement a Robust Safety Program

Be Proactive About Safety:
- Designate a Safety Coordinator
- Quarterly Safety Committee meetings
- Storm preparedness
- Emergency procedures (EAP)
- Safety drills
- Clubhouse & restaurant standards
- Dock safety & maintenance
- Pool & beachfront safety
- Clean Marina environmental standards
- Junior sailing safety
- Safety signage
- Forms & waivers
- Accident reports

Utilize Available Safety Resources:
- Junior Sailing Safety Guide
- Club Safety Manual
- Standard Forms & Waivers
- Dock Safety Guidelines
- Hurricane Response Plan
- Emergency Action Plan Template

Safety materials are available at www.burgeeprogram.com
Key things to do when you get back home

• Take action on as many of the Top-10 Safety Topics as you can
• Designate a “Safety Coordinator” or assign “Safety” as a responsibility to one of your board members or officers
• Form a Safety & Risk Committee
• Involve your board members and officers in active safety conversations
• Help your staff do a complete pre-season safety self-inspection
• Train your staff to do weekly safety self-inspections
• Document and practice your Emergency Response Plan
• Talk to your insurance agent – use them as your advisor!
The Burgee Program today insures:
- Program began in 1988
- More than 50% of sailing organizations in US
- 1000+ plus sailing organizations
- More than 150 class associations
- 100’s of community based programs

Team behind the program is best in class:
- Managed by the sailors and marine insurance experts at Gowrie Group
- Underwritten by CHUBB
- Endorsed by US SAILING

Learn more:
- Visit us at www.burgeeprogram.com
- Call us at 800.262.8911
- Email us at burgee@gowrie.com