



Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service

"Peace, Unity & Justice"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE:

SAFE BOATING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER SEASON

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is reminding all boaters to operate vessels safely and responsibly as marine traffic increases throughout the summer months.

AMPS Marine Patrol members will be conducting vessel safety checks, public education initiatives, impaired operation enforcement, and cross-border marine patrols throughout the waterways in accordance with the Akwesasne Small Vessels Act and the Canada Shipping Act. The safety of families, community members, and visitors remains our highest priority.

Boat operators are responsible for ensuring their vessel is operated safely at all times. This includes:

- Operating at a safe speed appropriate for weather and water conditions
- Maintaining a proper lookout
- Avoiding excessive wake near docks, swimmers, and smaller vessels
- Ensuring passengers are seated safely
- Never operating a vessel while impaired by alcohol or drugs
- Carrying all required safety equipment
- Ensuring required documentation is on board, including proof of competency

Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)

Under Canadian law, operators of motorized pleasure craft are required to carry proof of competency. The most common form is a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC). Anyone operating a powered recreational vessel in Canadian waters must carry valid proof of competency and have it readily available while operating the vessel.





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Boating safety certification courses are available online through Transport Canada–accredited providers. More information can be found through Transport Canada’s Office of Boating Safety at: canadaboatsafety.com

Operators are encouraged to complete certification prior to operating a vessel and to carry their proof of competency while on the water.

Required Safety Equipment

Under Canadian boating regulations, most pleasure craft are required to carry:

- One approved lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD) per person on board
- A buoyant heaving line
- A manual propelling device or anchor with sufficient rope
- A sound-signalling device (such as a whistle)
- Navigation lights when operating between sunset and sunrise or in reduced visibility
- A waterproof flashlight
- Fire extinguisher(s), where required
- Visual distress signals, where required based on vessel size and type

Operators are encouraged to inspect all safety equipment before launching and ensure lifejackets are properly fitted and readily accessible.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains committed to focusing its efforts on the safety and wellbeing of our community. We encourage community support and involvement to report any suspected criminal activities. Anyone with information that would assist in any type of investigation can call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.