

# PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

## Law Enforcement Regional Offices

### Northwest Region

Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer,  
Venango, and Warren counties  
11528 State Highway 98, Meadville, PA 16335  
814.337.0444

### Southwest Region

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene,  
Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and  
Westmoreland counties  
236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501  
814.445.8974

### Northcentral Region

Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson,  
Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter,  
Snyder, Tioga, and Union counties  
595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814.359.5250

### Southcentral Region

Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton,  
Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry,  
and York counties  
1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241  
717.486.7087

### Northeast Region

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne,  
Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne,  
and Wyoming counties  
5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656  
570.477.5717

### Southeast Region

Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh,  
Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia,  
and Schuylkill counties.  
255 West Brubaker Valley Road, Lititz, PA 17543  
717.626.0228



The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board  
Bureau of Alcohol Education  
offers a variety of materials free of charge.

For more information:  
[ra-lbeducation@pa.gov](mailto:ra-lbeducation@pa.gov)  
[www.lcb.pa.gov](http://www.lcb.pa.gov)

800.453.PLCB (7522)

Hearing Impaired TTD/TTY: 717.772.3725

Like us on  **PLCB Alcohol Education**



#### PLCB Disclaimer of Liability

This information is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys information pertinent to alcohol-related offenses. For more information or further clarification, please contact your local District Attorney's Office or a private attorney.

# DRINKING, BOATING AND THE LAW



# BOAT SAFELY

It is illegal to operate a watercraft (including canoes, kayaks, and personal watercraft, such as Jet Skis®) on all waters of the commonwealth while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

The combination of boating and drinking alcohol is dangerous for you, your passengers, and other boaters. Each year more than 650 people die in boating accidents.<sup>1</sup> Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 17 percent of deaths.<sup>1</sup>

Alcohol affects a boater very quickly. Long before a person becomes legally intoxicated, alcohol impairs his/her balance, reaction time, vision, and judgment. On the water, elements like motion, engine noise, vibration, sun, and wind can intensify alcohol's effects. The results of boating under the influence can be just as tragic as drinking and driving.

## KNOW THE BASICS.

- **Balance:** Alcohol can impair a person's sense of balance. When combined with the motion of the boat, it can cause a boater to fall overboard. Alcohol can also confuse a person to the point where he/she is unable to swim to the surface.
- **Reaction time:** Alcohol slows reaction time. It makes it difficult to process the sights and sounds around you in time to react.
- **Judgment:** Alcohol can keep a person from making good decisions. A boater who has been drinking may take risks he/she normally would not.
- **Vision:** Alcohol causes tunnel vision and makes it harder to focus. It can also impair depth perception and night vision. This makes it harder to judge the speed and distance of other moving watercraft, as well as the distance to stationary objects such as docks and buoys.

## POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF "BUI"

Those over the age of 21 with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08 percent or higher and minors with a BAC of 0.02 percent or higher, may be convicted of Boating Under the Influence ("BUI").

Also, an individual with a BAC lower than 0.08 percent may be convicted of BWI, provided that he/she is incapable of safely operating or being in actual physical control of the movement of the watercraft.


If you are arrested for operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, you could face any or all of the following:

- fines between \$300 and \$10,000
- up to five years in jail
- suspension of boating privileges for one year

If you refuse to submit to a breath, blood, or urine test, the Fish and Boat Commission may suspend your boating privileges for up to 18 months.

## BOATERS WHO DRINK MAY FACE OTHER CHARGES, SUCH AS:

- Reckless or negligent operation of boats
- Public drunkenness
- Disorderly conduct
- Open container violations
- Underage drinking
- Homicide by watercraft while under the influence, which can result in fines up to \$25,000 and a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of three years



**STAY SAFE.  
DON'T OPERATE A BOAT WHILE UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL.**