

Time  
to be  
safe

Even a normal boating environment can cause minor physical impairments. Research shows that exposure to sun glare, wind, noise and motion on the water causes slowed reactions after just a few hours. If you add alcohol to an already impaired reaction time, you may greatly increase your chances of making mistakes.

**Drinking and boating—a dangerous combination**

On a hot summer day, nothing seems more perfect than a cold beer and your boat. Unfortunately, this is a combination for trouble. In fact, over 50 percent of all boating accidents are related to alcohol use.

**Diminished reaction time**

Alcohol severely reduces your ability to react to the changing conditions on the water. Your ability to make judgments regarding speed and distance becomes impaired. And your balance, critical on a rocking boat, is affected with your first drink.

**Be safe—designate a driver**

If you bring alcoholic beverages on board your boat, designate a qualified operator to stay sober. A sober operator may be the difference between a close call or tragedy in an emergency. A designated driver will assure that everyone gets back to shore and home safely.

*Boating safety*

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