

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray is concerned about your safety. Since the Governor has re-opened public boat ramps, more people who are not in school or are working from home will be on the water during the week and on weekends. The following guidelines are recommended by the National Safe Boating Council.

### Safe Boating and COVID 19

1. "Follow state and local guidance from public health officials, marine law enforcement agencies, department of natural resources, park services and others. For example, some areas prohibit powerboating while allowing paddling (e.g. kayak, SUP, canoe) as exercise. Read this helpful [state guide from NMMA](#), and check with your state and local community for the latest advisory as information changes daily.
2. Limit the people aboard your boat to people in your immediate household. No guests, no friends, no grandparents that don't live in your house, you get it.
3. Stay at least six feet away from other people who do not live in your house.
4. Maintain safe distance at the fuel dock or loading up at the marina.
5. After touching a marina gate, fuel pump or something someone else may have touched, wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer to disinfect them.
6. Don't raft up to other boaters or pull up onto a beach next to someone else as it could put you in close proximity to others. Some states are requiring 50 feet between vessels.
7. Go right from your house to the boat and back so that you don't have unnecessary contact with anyone.
8. Wear a life jacket when you're on the water. You never know when an accident may happen, and a life jacket can help save you until search and rescue assets can arrive.
9. Carry all required boating safety equipment such as flares, navigation light, a horn or whistle, a first aid kit.
10. File a float plan. Make sure a friend or loved one knows the details of your trip in the event of an emergency.
11. Pack food, water, and other things you may need as restaurants and marina stores may not be open.
12. Maintain proper handwashing.
13. Be sure to have at least two communication devices that work when wet, such as satellite phones, emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRB), VHF radios and personal locator beacons (PLB). Cell phones are not reliable in an emergency situation.
14. Don't go boating if someone in your household is sick.
15. Don't drink and boat."

<https://safeboatingcampaign.com/news/tips-for-navigating-social-distancing-restrictions-while-boating/>

*The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary*

*was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit*  
[www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)