

YOUNG AND THE RECKLESS

Teacher Study Guide



More than seventy million Americans enjoy recreational boating each year.

Capsizing and falls overboard account for more than half of all recreational boating fatalities each year.

Eight out of every 10 victims in fatal boating accidents are not wearing life jackets.

In 2000, alcohol involvement in reported accidents accounted for 31 percent of all boating fatalities.

The vast majority of boating accidents are caused by operator controllable factors and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors.

Objective: Educate students that boating on the water should be taken as seriously as driving on the road and that the rules for one apply for the other. Driving is Driving.

presented by



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

SIX GOOD BOATING & DRIVING HABITS

- 1. Wearing a life jacket in a boat is like wearing a seatbelt in a car. Many people would be alive today if they would take this simple step every time.**

Many people assume that as long as they have life jackets available in the boat, they're safe. Many, if not most, drownings occur because people find themselves in the water unexpectedly. They don't take into consideration the fact that should an accident occur, they might be knocked unconscious or have a reduced ability to swim. **Believing that you'll have time to don a life jacket in an emergency is like assuming that you'll have time to buckle up if you see that you're about to get in a car accident.**

- 2. The speeds of the vehicles are similar and therefore so are the physical forces acting on passengers. Adjust speed and position to keep empty space around you.**

You don't sit on the hood or in the window of a car traveling 60 miles an hour on the freeway, then why would you sit on the bow or the gunwales of a boat traveling similar speeds?

- 3. Most people understand the danger of drinking and driving a car, but don't translate the risks to a boating situation.**

Reckless is Reckless. Effects of alcohol on a driver do not diminish simply because you're on the water. **Furthermore, sun and heat compound the effects of alcohol, making the risks far more dangerous.**

- 4. Reckless behavior is one of the most prominent causes of crashes on water.**

Boating is often viewed simply as a 'recreational' experience, and boat operators will often take risks they wouldn't dream of taking on land, in any other type of vehicle. Rules of the road exist for the open waters, and the driver is just as responsible for safe operation on the water, as he or she is on a public roadway. **Operator inattention, competitive behaviors ("boat rage"), and horseplay can be deadly.**

- 5. Taking a boating safety course is as important as a driving course.**

You've already experienced how complicated driving can be. There are so many rules of the road to learn, as well as operator skills that are important for keeping you and your passengers safe. The same holds true for boating. A boating course will teach you the important boating procedures, as well as what you should know about equipment and emergencies. You recognize the risk of heading out on the freeway with no introduction to traffic laws and procedures, but probably see no harm in cranking a Jet-Ski up to 60 mph with no knowledge of boating traffic rules? **Driving or boating – you should know before you go!**

- 6. Just as laws control our streets and freeways, our lakes, rivers and waterways also have regulations that are routinely enforced by a variety of law enforcement officers.**

And just in case you don't really care about #3 and #4, you need to know that you are as responsible for your behavior on the water as you are on the road. Because of the growing numbers of accidents and fatalities on the water, most waterways are regularly patrolled. Today prosecution for serious reckless behavior on the water can result in your losing your driver's license on land. Think it's okay to party on the water? **A BUI is just as serious an offense as a DUI. You can get busted!**

BOATING & DRIVING QUIZ

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1. On the average each year how many people are killed in a vehicle crash?**
A. 10,000 B. 13,000 C. 26,000 D. 37,000 E. 41,000
- 2. On the average each year how many people are killed in boating mishaps?**
A. 50 B. 700 C. 1500 D. 100 E. 450
- 3. What percentage would people be alive today if they would have had their life jacket on when involved in an accident?**
A. 20% B. 40% C. 85% D. 50% E. 66%
- 4. What percentage would people be alive today if they would have had their seatbelt on when involved in an accident?**
A. 10% B. 45% C. 22% D. 5% E. 65%
- 5. At what G-Force does a jet pilot need to be able to cope?**
A. 1-G B. 10-G's C. 3-G's D. 15-G's E. 25-G's
- 6. A boat or car traveling at 30 mph hitting a fixed object will pull how many G's?**
A. 5-G's B. 15-G's C. 25-G's D. 50-G's E. 100-G's
- 7. What percentage of all vehicle crashes involves alcohol/drugs?**
A. 25% B. 50% C. 66% D. 31% E. 75%
- 8. What percentage of all boating mishaps is contributed to alcohol/drugs?**
A. 31% B. 50% C. 66% D. 75% E. 25%
- 9. What percentage of all vehicle fatalities occurred where the operator had not completed or had a formalized traffic safety course?**
A. 5% B. 25% C. 50% D. 60% E. 80%
- 10. What percentage of all boating fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not completed a boating safety education course?**
A. 5% B. 25% C. 50% D. 60% E. 84%
- 11. What is the number one cause of all vehicle/boating crashes?**
A. Alcohol B. Speed C. Inattention D. Attitude E. Weather
- 12. What is the annual cost each year in this country for motor vehicle crashes?**
A. \$150 Million B. \$300 Million C. \$800 Million D. \$20 Billion E. \$150 Billion
- 13. What is the annual cost each year in this country for boating mishaps?**
A. \$200,000 B. \$34 Million C. \$1 Million D. \$15 Million E. \$25 Million

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

All answers to this Quiz comes from the following sources: United States Coast Guard and (NHTSA) National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

1. **(E)** In the year 2001, over 41,000 people lost their lives on our nations highways. We average 130 deaths every 24 hours – 17 out of those 130 deaths are children and teenagers.
2. **(B)** The Coast Guard received reports for a total of 7,740 recreational boating accidents in 2000. The casualty data for 2000 showed 701 fatalities and 4,355 injuries.
3. **(C)** Life jackets could have saved the lives of approximately 85% of the boaters who drowned. In 2000, approximately eight out of 10 victims in fatal boating accidents were not wearing life jackets.
4. **(E)** Not wearing a seatbelt in a moving vehicle is the number one cause of death. You have four times greater chance of getting killed if you are ejected from the vehicle.
5. **(C)** Jet fighters must withstand 3-5 G's in order to fly. Death can occur to a person once you reach over 10 G's.
6. **(E)** The only reason you might still be alive is you're in the G force for only a split second. If you were to be in the force field for over five seconds the best way to describe your body would be in parts.
7. **(B)** Nationwide this past year over 50% of all fatalities were contributed to alcohol/drugs. " Friends don't let friends boat or drive drunk."
8. **(A)** A study estimates that boat operators with a blood alcohol concentration above .10 percent are estimated to more than 10 times as likely to be killed in a boating accident than those with zero blood alcohol concentration.
9. **(B)** A study estimates that one out of four drivers have not had any type of formalized traffic safety education.
10. **(E)** 84% percent of boating fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not completed a boating safety education course.
11. **(C)** Inattention is the number one cause of all boating/vehicle mishaps. Talking on a cell phone, eating, conversing, smoking a cigarette, adjusting the radio, and etc.
12. **(E)** In the year 2001, this country spent over \$150 billion dollars on motor vehicle crashes. Given the amount spent each year we could put every high school senior through college for four years free.
13. **(B)** The cost for property damage exceeded over \$34 million dollars in the year of 2000.

COMPARING BOATS & CARS

Try something like this: Find some fun ways of comparing boats and cars. The video did that with different examples, but can you think of others to discuss? Example: Think of a no-wake zone by a boat launch or marina as being the parking lot of a store or mall. You wouldn't speed up to 60 mph halfway through the parking lot heading toward the road but that's exactly the way some people treat a no-wake zone.

Try something like this: Think of some scenarios that might result if you find yourself in the water unexpectedly. How effectively do you think you would react? Discuss plausible situations in which you might find yourself unexpectedly in the water unconscious or unable to swim? Consider the outcome. What would happen with a life jacket on? Without?

Try something like this: Get in your imaginary boat and time exactly how long it takes to put down what you are drinking, reach for a life jacket, and buckle it up. If you have access to a swimming pool, try to accomplish the same steps while immersed; check your time. Consider how rough or cold waters and in climate weather conditions might affect your ability to don the life jacket properly. Is there really enough time to react before you hit the water if your boat were sideswiped by another watercraft or struck an object in the water. Imagine being a passenger and the driver cranks the wheel unexpectedly, causing you to fall overboard?

OUR SUPERVISING EDUCATOR

CHUCK FILIPPINI

B.S. of Education from the University of Idaho- 1977

Teacher since 1978 at North Central High School

- a. Special Education
- b. Physical Education
- c. Health Education
- d. Traffic Safety Education

Currently teaching Special Education and Traffic Safety Education

AWARDS

- 1993 Started teaching Traffic Safety Education full time
- 2000 Washington State TSE "Teacher Of The Year" (W.T.S.E.A.)
Washington Traffic Safety Education Association
- 2001 National TSE "Teacher Of The Year" (A.D.T.S.E.A.)
American Driver Traffic Safety Education Association
- 2002 Spokane Public Schools "Distinguished Teacher Of The Year"

360 Million Americans Visit Army Corps Recreational Areas Each Year

Did you know that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the leading provider of outdoor recreation on all Federally-managed public lands in the United States? With a recreation base that is primarily built around water, the Corps has a dedicated focus on water safety. Exploring America's rivers can be an enjoyable and educational experience. The rivers hold vast recreational opportunities for young and old alike.

In addition to being a great source of recreation, the rivers also carry commercial vessels transporting tons of cargo, as well as passengers. For this reason, the rivers present many hazards that demand special attention by boaters. Strong currents and underlying structures can prove fatal if safety precautions are not taken. The best safeguard against tragedy on the river is knowledge, preparation and adherence to safety rules and regulations!

For more information visit the US Army Corps of Engineers National Water Safety Program website at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/>



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**