



FUN, SUN & SAFETY

The Flathead County Sheriff's Office wants to help you keep your boat, your property and your passengers safe while enjoying our beautiful Flathead Valley waterways. Here are some helpful tips:

BOATING SAFETY

Keep engines, fuel and air filters, and electronics in proper working order. Failure of this equipment can be dangerous and leave you stranded.

- Depending on the size of your boat, the United States Coast Guard requires certain safety equipment to be on the boat. If you are not sure what is required, visit the Coast Guard Web site at www.uscgboating.org for a list.
- Know the "rules of the road" and be prepared to react to any situation.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. This is sometimes referred to as a "Float Plan."
- Never drink and drive a boat.

SECURING YOUR BOAT

- Record serial numbers, hull numbers and model information of your boat and the equipment on your boat. Make two copies. Keep one in a safe place on the boat and one at home.
- Permanently mark all electronics or other valuable equipment with your driver's license number or state-issued identification number.
- Take pictures of your boat, boat equipment, and electronics to assist law enforcement in identifying them if they are stolen.
- Do not leave your registration on the boat when you are not aboard. That way a criminal cannot produce pertinent information such as name and address.
- Get to know neighboring boat owners and your boat storage or marina staff. They need to know who is normally around your boat. Know who should or shouldn't be around the docks or storage facility.



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Keeping your boat safe in the water or on a trailer

- Keep the cabin locked and the curtains closed.
- Never leave the keys in the ignition or hide spare keys on the boat.
- Make the boat difficult to start by installing a coded ignition or a hidden kill switch.
- Do not leave valuable electronics or fishing gear onboard and unattended when you are not aboard. Take them with you to a safe place.
- Out of the water, store your boat in a well lit, secure area if possible.
- Select a marina with good security. It should be well lit and busy.
- Consider one of the many quality specialized locks on the market that are designed to make engine and out drive removal more difficult.
- If possible, store your boat in a locked garage, building or secure storage facility. If that is not possible, secure the trailer to something with a case-hardened chain and a quality lock.
- Consider one of the many wheel locks available on the market.
- Use a quality tongue hitch on the trailer.
- Block the trailer against a building or other structure with a vehicle.
- NEVER leave electronics or fishing gear onboard and unattended.

Who to call

- If you see a crime being committed, immediately call 911.
- If you have information concerning a marine crime that is under investigation, you can remain anonymous and possibly be eligible for a reward by calling CRIME STOPPERS at 1-406-752-TIPS.



Sheriff Chuck Curry

Emergency **911** & Non Emergency 758-5610

www.flatheadcountysheriff.com

