

> ALCOHOL & TIREDNESS

If you're tired, or have been drinking, you will be less alert to the signs of fire.

You are more likely to fall asleep.

You are less likely to wake up if a fire does start, particularly if you don't have working smoke and heat alarms on your boat.

SMOKING & ALCOHOL

- Cigarette ends can smoulder undetected for hours if not put out properly.
- Stub out completely in an ashtray – make sure there's no smoke.
- Use an ashtray that will stay stable on the boat.
- Pour water on cigar and cigarette ends before putting in a bin.
- In many fires started by cigarettes, people have also been drinking and are sleepy.
- Don't smoke in your chair if you've been drinking or you're feeling tired
- If you do feel tired, smoke outside on the deck, standing up.

COOKING & ALCOHOL CAN BE A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

If you've been drinking alcohol or taking drugs, don't cook. If you are inland, buy food on the way back to your boat, or dine out, rather than attempting to cook when you get home. Alternatively prepare cold food back on board.

- Fires start when your attention stops.
- Never walk away while you're cooking.
- Never throw water over a pan that is on fire.
- Keep grill pans and cooking area clean. A build-up of grease could catch fire.
- Barbecues shouldn't be used on boats - hot charcoal gives off dangerous amounts of Carbon Monoxide (CO) and blown embers could set your boat on fire.
- A spark device (proprietary gas-lighter) is the safest way to light a stove without its own igniter.

> FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on boat fire safety and routine safety checks visit www.boatsafetyscheme.org/fire

For more information on sea regulations and emergencies at sea visit Maritime and Coastguard Agency at www.dft.gov.uk/mca

For advice, checks of emergency equipment and emergency rescue information contact Royal National Lifeboat Institute at www.rnli.org.uk

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999**.

TO BOOK A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT
Call **0800 0731 999**
or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk



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Fact.

Fire can spread quickly on a boat, even on water. Working smoke and heat alarms will give you early warning if a fire breaks out.



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> SMOKE AND HEAT ALARMS

SMOKE AND HEAT ALARMS COULD HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE, AND YOUR BOAT.

- Test them WEEKLY and never remove the batteries.
- If an alarm doesn't sound, fit a new battery.
- If it still doesn't sound, buy a new alarm.

Heat alarms are specially designed for cooking areas. Cooking fumes will not set off the alarm.

> CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) AND GAS DETECTORS

CO poisoning kills people. It can also damage your health permanently. The early symptoms of CO poisoning are:

- *Tiredness*
 - *Drowsiness*
 - *Dizziness*
 - *Chest Pains*
 - *Nausea*
- Fit a CO detector to alert you to any poisonous carbon monoxide.
 - Check your detector is suitable for marine use and meets the EN50291 standard.
 - Fit a bubble type gas leak detector in the gas locker.
 - Push the detector button routinely to check for leaks in the gas system.
 - Keep cabin ventilation clear to prevent a build-up of toxic CO.

Gas Safety

- Ensure gas appliances are installed and maintained annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- Never restrict airflow by blocking vents or air gaps.
- Make sure gas cylinders are secure after they've been changed. Test for leaks with detection fluid.
- Whenever possible, turn gas valves off before you go to bed or leave the boat.
- Replace gas hoses showing signs of cracking, brittleness or discolouration.
- Store gas cylinders outside, in a self-draining and fire resistant locker. Keep them upright and secured from moving.

> WHAT TO DO IF THERE'S A FIRE

IF FIRE DOES BREAK OUT, GET OUT, STAY OUT, DIAL 999.

Switch off fuel and gas, if possible and safe to do so. Do not enter a smoke filled space.

- If you are already in a smoke filled space, keep low down where the air is clearer.
- If you need to break glass to escape use a blanket to prevent injury.
- Starve the fire of air. Don't open engine hatches or doors unless you have to.

Inland Fires

- If you are inland or moored near to land move everybody off the boat and call 999 immediately.

Fires at Sea

- If you are off-shore move as far away from the fire as you can on deck. Make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket.
- Take a handheld VHF radio onto deck with you to call for help.
- Notify the Coastguard by radio, make a Mayday call and/or display a distress signal.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Make an emergency plan with everyone on board before you set out.

- Make sure people know how to close emergency valves and switches in case of fire.
- Keep a torch easily available to help you escape at night. Make sure you have spares and test them regularly.
- Don't go to sea without a VHF radio. Have a charged-up, hand-held, waterproof one ready for use at any time.
- Don't rely on a mobile phone. There could be no signal and it may not be waterproof.
- Have enough life jackets for everyone on board, and keep them in good condition.
- Keep exits clear and keys to hand. Don't lock or bolt doors and hatches from the outside.
- Track your location so you can tell the emergency services where you are if needed.
- Consider having a 'grab-bag' for removing vital possessions in an emergency.

> OTHER SAFETY TIPS

Coal and Wood Burning Stoves

- Check the flues of coal and wood burning stoves for signs of leaks and blockages.
- Only use the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Other types may burn too hot.
- Dispose of embers carefully. If they're still warm they could cause a fire or build-up of CO.
- Ensure all hobs have shut-off or isolation valves.

Candles

- Make sure candles are in secure holders, as a rocking boat or a sudden jolt could tip candles over.
- Always put candles on a heat resistant surface / holders. Be especially careful with night lights and tea lights, which can get hot enough to melt plastic.
- Position candles away from objects that may catch fire.
- A snuffer, or spoon, is the safest way to put out a candle to avoid sparks flying.
- Never leave a lit candle alone, even for a few seconds. If you are leaving the boat, or going to sleep, make sure candles are properly extinguished first.

Below Deck

- Keep fabrics and paper away from anything hot like hobs, flues and light bulbs.
- Heat from light bulbs can cause fires. Energy saving light bulbs do not get as hot and are therefore safer.

Engine Maintenance

- Don't let oil or debris build-up in the bilges.
- Inspect the lagging of engine and heater exhausts for damage and deterioration and nearby items for heat damage or charring.
- Check exhaust systems of inboard engines for leaks.
- Check for loose fuel joints, damaged fuel tanks or deteriorating hoses.

Fuel Safety

- Take care when refuelling. Put out naked flames first.
- Turn off the engine and cooking before handling any fuel.
- Prevent petrol vapour from entering the boat by closing the doors, windows or hatches and closing the awning.
- Refuel outboard engines and generators well away from the boat.
- Leaks, spills and vapour can ignite easily. Clean them up straight away and make sure filler caps are secure after refuelling.
- Only carry spare petrol if necessary and store it in a self-draining locker or on open deck.