

Float Plan

Before heading out on the water for any length of time, boaters should always check the marine weather forecast, ensure all their safety equipment is on board and meets state and Federal requirements, AND file a Float Plan.

Filing a Float Plan is nothing more than a trip itinerary a boater leaves with a reliable relative or friend who can contact the appropriate authorities in the event the boater does not return when expected. The Float Plan outlines a description of the vessel, the expected route, ports of call, safety equipment on board and an estimated date and time of return. If the operator or passengers have a medical condition or are taking medication, that information should be included as well.

One of the U.S. Coast Guard's primary missions is search and rescue. However, boaters can help limit search time if they leave behind a Float Plan. Too often in the past, valuable time was lost because there was very little information available when initiating the search. Another thing boaters seem to overlook is notifying those back home when schedules change or unexpected delays occur. There have been cases in the past where boaters were reported overdue and then later found safe and sound at some distant marina or at some shoreside establishment. Boaters should always notify those back home when they will be delayed or if they decide to change their itinerary.

Create a trip, enter the float plan data, print out or email to a reliable friend.



FLOAT PLAN

* Float Plans cannot be filed with the Coast Guard.

DESCRIPTION OF BOAT:

TYPE _____ LENGTH _____ HULL COLOR _____
TRIM COLOR _____ NAME _____ MAKE _____
REGISTRATION NUMBER _____ POWER/SAIL _____
ENGINE TYPE _____ H.P. _____

PERSONS ON BOARD (POB)

NAME AGE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

_____/_____/_____

SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT (CHECK AS APPROPRIATE):

PFDs ___ SURVIVAL SUITS ___ FLARES ___ SMOKE SIGNALS ___
MIRROR ___ FLASHLIGHT ___ EPIRB ___ FOOD ___ WATER ___ ANCHOR ___
RAFT OR DINGHY ___ PADDLES ___ OTHER ___

*FREQ'S BROADCAST: VHF-FM CHNL. 15/16 121.5 mHz ___ 406 mHz ___

RADIO YES/NO TYPE _____ FREQs GUARDED _____

TRIP PLANS: LEAVE AT: (TIME) _____

EXPECT TO RETURN BY _____ AND IN ANY EVENT NO LATER THAN: _____

AUTOMOBILE:

LICENSE NR _____ STATE ___ MAKE ___ COLOR _____

TRAILER LICENSE _____ WHERE PARKED _____

IF NOT RETURNED BY (DATE/TIME): _____

CALL THE COAST GUARD (808-541-2500), OR LOCAL AUTHORITY (911).