



## Town of East Troy Police Department

N9330 Stewart School Road

P.O. Box 664

Town of East Troy, WI 53120



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the LBPIA for their generous monetary contribution toward the purchase of AED Defibrillators. Your gift of life is appreciated. I pray we will never have to use it, but if we do, your organization can be proud that your efforts were instrumental in helping to save a life.

Operating a water vessel is a very dangerous undertaking. There are no marked traffic lanes, stop signs, yield signs, or speed limits. Vessels crisscross in front of and behind each other. Vessels are towing skiers and fishermen are anchored or drifting on the water. The winds constantly change. Swimmers in the water and hidden debris floats just under the water's surface.

If your vessel breaks down or someone falls overboard, you cannot just exit the boat and walk out to help. Retrieving a person from the water is dangerous and requires the utmost attention and assistance not encountered on land.

Stated simply and succinctly, boating safety presents an entirely different set of circumstances, and it is essential you have the correct "tools in your tool box" to operate your vessel safely and, if the situation presents itself, assist those in need of help and assistance.

Below is a chart explaining that which is required to operate a vessel in Wisconsin.

Please, make a copy of this and post it in your vessel, on the refrigerator, in your boat house, or wherever you choose. The items on this list could save your life or someone you love.

My Department's Water Patrol officers are available to conduct vessel inspections. We will inspect your vessel and make sure you have the proper equipment on board. We will check to make sure your equipment is serviceable. You may contact us on the water, wave us down, or call and make an appointment for one of my members or myself to come to your home and inspect your vessel. If your vessel is trailered, drive over to our station house. All I ask is that you call and make an appointment for station house inspections. The Department phone number is 262-632-3700. We are conveniently located in the Town Hall at N9330 Stewart School Road.

I would like to make it perfectly clear, if you stop us on the water and ask for a safety inspection we will do that for you. If you have an equipment deficiency we will not cite you. Rather, we will educate you as to what you need to do to correct the problem.

If, for example, you do not have enough PFD's on board, my members will terminate your voyage and escort you to safe harbor to obtain the proper number of PFD's. We would be remiss in our duties to allow you to operate your vessel without the proper number of PFD's on board.

Safety is our #1 concern. We want you to have fun and enjoy the waterways of our community. WE can accomplish this by working together to ensure a safe boating environment for all of us here in the Township of East Troy.

Enjoy your summer and if I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me. I've visited some local organizations and events and have met many of you. A few questions keep coming up, so I'll include a few helpful FAQs here.

Fire extinguishers should be checked for functionality. Some have a gauge which you can check to see if the extinguisher is still useable. But if there is no gauge, pick up and shake the extinguisher, then listen on the side of the canister. You should hear the sediment falling from top to bottom. If it falls gently, the material inside is still useable, but if you hear a sudden thud of a big clump of sediment falling, that extinguisher needs to be replaced.

One more pointer from the FAQs I have had is about wake. A boat owner/operator is responsible for the wake of the boat. If a wake floods your boat or does other damage, try to write down the time and place and the registration numbers on the boat, and then report the incident to our office. Be careful that your wake does not endanger other boaters or damage equipment or shorelines.

I would like to leave you with this quote. It is appropriate for any body of water – “To insure safety at sea, the best that science can devise and that naval organization can provide must be regarded only as an aid, and never as a substitute for good seamanship, self-reliance, and sense of ultimate responsibility which are the first requisites in a seaman and naval officer.”

~Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

Don P. Jensen Sr.  
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