

For Immediate Release

July 4th Safety Tips for Boaters Watching Fireworks Displays

The Sea Tow Foundation Urges Life Jacket Use Over the Holiday

Southold, NY – June 30, 2016 – Over the long July 4th weekend, countless coastal and lakeside towns across the country mount fireworks displays, many of which will launch from the water. These exciting events draw hundreds of boaters, who anchor out or raft up in order to have “ring-side seats” for the show. Boating at night and in the smoke caused by the fireworks can prove challenging, however, the non-profit Sea Tow Foundation <<http://www.boatingsafety.org>> offers the following six safety tips for boaters watching a July 4th fireworks display from the water:

1. **Wear your life jacket!** Make sure everyone onboard the boat is wearing either a traditional life jacket that fits properly, or an inflatable PFD. Navigating at night in smoky conditions can be just as dangerous as boating in stormy weather or in fog.
2. **Designate a Sober Skipper** to stay at the helm all evening and be responsible for returning the boat and its passengers safely to shore after the fireworks display is over.
3. **Watch your weight.** Don't overload the boat with passengers. The number of seats available on board is not always the best indicator of capacity. Look for the boat's capacity plate on the transom or by the helm, or look up the passenger capacity in the boat's manual.
4. **Things look different at night.** Remember that in the dark, visual navigation markers you rely on during the day may be invisible. Chart your route to your fireworks-viewing spot in advance, and use GPS-enabled

electronics to help you find it, if necessary.

5. **Listen Up!** Follow the directions issued to boaters by U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary as to where you may safely anchor to view the fireworks away from sparks and ash.

6. **Relax and enjoy the show.** Don't be in a rush to get home; let some of the boat traffic clear out before you raise anchor after the fireworks display is over.

About the Sea Tow Foundation

With a focus on safe boating practices that result in fun on the water, the Sea Tow Foundation – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – was established in 2007 by Sea Tow Founder Capt. Joe Frohnhoefer. After his passing in 2015, Captain Joe's legacy continues as the Foundation brings attention to the number of preventable boating-related accidents, injuries, and deaths, and directly addresses prevention methods through education and awareness. More than 350 life jacket loaner stands are now available across the United States and the Foundation's Designate a Sober Skipper program continues to grow.. For more information, please visit BoatingSafety.com <<http://www.boatingsafety.com>> .