Enjoy a safe day on the water

Six tips to do just that

1. It's not your grandpa’s life jacket. Play it safe by wearing an inflatable vest or belt pack. They're compact, cool and stylish — and they can keep you from drowning.

2. An empty keg or beer can is not a personal flotation device. Drinking impairs your judgment. If you drink, do it responsibly and always designate a sober driver.

3. Avoid road rage on the water — obey buoy signs and follow boating rules. Watch for swimmers and other boats — they may not be watching out for you.

4. Guzzle it down. Water, that is. Make sure you stay hydrated when you’re in a boat. The sun and alcohol can sneak up on you faster than a Jet Ski™.

5. 10-4 good buddy. Know exactly where you are on the water. Keep a map handy and a radio nearby in case you need to call for help. Keep required safety equipment on board.

6. Don’t be a loner. Never swim or boat by yourself. Drowning victims often can't yell for help. So ask friends and family to watch out for one another in and around the water.