

Actsafes Safety Bulletin #15

BOATING SAFETY



These guidelines are intended to provide recommendations on boating safety for film casts and crews.

1. SEA SICKNESS:

- a. Determine if any cast or crewmember is susceptible to sea-sickness.
- b. Advise any cast or crewmember who is susceptible or is uncertain to consult their physician or obtain an over the counter medication to control sea-sickness.
- c. Stay on deck in the fresh air if you feel nauseous. Do not go below.
- d. Eat soda crackers or plain bread and drink plain soda water.

2. WHAT TO WEAR:

- a. All persons should wear approved non-skid deck shoes when working on or around watercraft.
- b. Avoid clothing that can get caught in "on-deck" machinery, or clothing that will hamper boat-to-boat transfers.
- c. Wear a sun-shading hat, sunglasses and apply sunblock.
- d. Coast Guard regulations require that each watercraft be equipped with approved floatation devices or Personal Floatation Devices. If you are instructed to put on a Personal Floatation Device do so and be sure it is properly secured.

3. PRE-PLANNING:

- a. The Unit Production Manager and/or the First Assistant Director will ensure a safety meeting with all involved personnel is conducted prior to boarding to acquaint cast and crew members of possible exposure to hazards while on a watercraft.
- b. Discuss emergency procedures to be followed while on a watercraft. These include procedures for abandoning the watercraft and rescue procedures.
- c. The Unit Production Manager and/or the First Assistant Director will ensure a safety meeting with all appropriate personnel if the watercraft is to be used in a stunt or special effects sequence.

4. BOARDING:

- a. Stand clear of the boat and dock edge during docking procedures. Do not attempt to board until the watercraft is securely tied to the dock and a member of the boat crew gives the command to board.
- b. Never under any circumstances place arms, legs or any other part of the body between the boat and dock or between two boats.
- c. When boarding, only the designated boarding area or device shall be used. Do not step over rails, gunwales or lifelines.
- d. Do not block access to the watercraft's cleats or emergency access hatches. If you are unsure where to stow your gear or other equipment, ask one of the watercraft crew members.

5. ONCE ON BOARD:

- a. Keep one hand free at all times to hold onto the watercraft or railing.



- b. Wear a life jacket while on the watercraft unless you are specifically told you may remove it.
- c. Operation of valves, switches, etc. is to be performed only by watercraft crew members.
- d. No one should straddle the gunwale (side of the boat) or sit with their legs dangling over the side of the boat.
- e. The watercraft will be crowded with film and boat equipment and people. Remain alert at all times while on the watercraft.
- f. Place all trash in proper containers. Do not throw anything overboard. It may create a hazard for other watercraft or marine life.
- g. The private quarters of the boat and the wheelhouse/bridge are off limits to the film cast and crew. If you are invited into the wheelhouse/bridge, do not touch any electronic or other equipment.
- h. A no smoking policy should be maintained while on board watercraft. A fire on board while at sea poses a serious hazard.
- i. Marine toilets are very delicate. It does not take much to damage them beyond what can be repaired at sea. DO NOT dispose of tampons, paper towels, or other objects in the marine toilet. They may damage or clog the toilet.
- j. Yell, "MAN OVERBOARD" as loudly as you can if you see someone fall into the water. Point in the direction of that person. DO NOT take your eyes off that person. Continue pointing until a boat crewmember takes over your position.

6. BOAT TO BOAT TRANSFERS:

- a. Stand clear of the area where the transfer craft is tying up.
- b. Allow a watercraft crewmember to assist in the transfer of bags and equipment first. This will allow you two free hands to steady yourself in transferring to the other watercraft.
- c. Do not attempt to transfer until all watercraft involved are secured together. A boat crewmember will give the command when to transfer to the other watercraft. Transfer only from the place where you are instructed to do so, do not attempt to transfer from any other point.

7. BOAT TO BEACH TRANSFERS:

- a. Be prepared to get your feet wet if there is surf.
- b. Plan your movements ahead when there is a surf. Be prepared to move on command. The watercraft operator will advise the cast and crew what procedures are to be followed. Proper timing is essential for the watercraft operator to enter and exit from the beach.

8. WHEN AT ANCHOR OR AT SEA:

- a. Restrict all personnel from the water when watercraft are operating unless it is a planned part of the sequence being prepared or filmed.
- b. Establish that the marine coordinator shall be in charge of all watercraft used. Operators of each watercraft shall take all orders from the marine coordinator.
- c. Equip each watercraft operator with a radio or have the watercraft equipped with an authorized marine band radio so contact with the marine coordinator may be maintained at all times.