

Pre-Departure Checklist

- Identify non-swimmers & have them wear life jackets
- Identify second-in-command in case skipper is incapacitated
- Identify jobs in case of sinking or fire—radio, damage control, liferaft
- Make sure anchor and rode are available for rapid deployment
- Identify the location of the following safety items:
 - ✓ Additional life jackets—must be readily accessible
 - ✓ Lifesling, throwable PFD and heaving line
 - ✓ Fire extinguishers—briefly describe operation
 - ✓ VHF Radio—turn it on and leave it on Channel 16
 - ✓ Flares
 - ✓ Liferaft, if so equipped
 - ✓ Horn
 - ✓ First aid kit
 - ✓ Main battery switch
 - ✓ A long nylon towline—1/2" x 50'
- Make sure that at least one other person knows:
 - ✓ Mayday procedure
 - ✓ Engine shut-off technique
- Turn on Loran or GPS for emergency position
- Check weather report and tides/currents
- Secure all hatches and opening ports
- Check bilges—empty if they have water
- Before engine is started:
 - ✓ Check engine lubricating oil
 - ✓ Check fuel
 - ✓ Check that warning buzzers sound after key is turned
- Once engine is started:
 - ✓ Check for water flow from transom
 - ✓ Check oil pressure
 - ✓ Warning buzzers shut off
- Before leaving the dock:
 - ✓ Shorepower and telephone cords
 - ✓ Remove all but one bow and stern line
 - ✓ Describe process of leaving dock to line handlers and helmsman
 - ✓ Upon leaving harbor, store a "go home" waypoint in case of low visibility

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