

GOING BOATING?

To avoid putting you and your passengers in danger, follow this advice before heading out:

Lifejackets – put them on before you board your boat - they will only help you if you wear them and they are in good condition.

Engine - ensure your engine is serviced and in good condition. Carry relevant spares (propeller, spark plugs, etc) and tools with you in case of breakdown.

Weather & Tides – check the expected conditions will not put you in danger. Remember, the weather can change rapidly.

Anchor - Always carry an anchor on board with enough rope & chain attached. Ensure it is suitable for the seabed conditions in the area.

Fuel - Do ensure you have more than enough fuel for your trip. That extra fuel reserve could be the difference between you making it safely back to harbour or not.

Trip Plan – let someone ashore know your plans and when you intend returning to land. Let them know what actions to take if you are overdue.

Distress Flares - Carry suitable in date parachute and mini/hand flares, where possible carry some on your person. If you do unexpectedly end up in the water, they will be within easy reach to fire off.

VHF Radio – Carry a waterproof handheld VHF radio. Have this on you at all times. If you do unexpectedly end up in the water, it may be your only way to alert the Coast Guard that you need help. Remember – mobile phones are no substitute for a VHF radio.

If you are in difficulty or spot someone in difficulty and requiring assistance dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coast Guard. On the water use VHF Channel 16.

Your call could save their life.

Skerries Coast Guard



www.skerriescoastguard.com