

Fire Onboard: How to be Prepared



Fires that occur on boats or in marinas can spread quickly and present unique response challenges due to hazardous conditions and limited access.

Generally, the best defense against fire is prevention. Follow these tips to help you stay fire safe onboard and in the marina.

On the boat:

- ▶ Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to alert occupants to a fire.
- ▶ Have a fire emergency plan and practice it.
- ▶ Inspect electrical wiring, connections, cords and battery-charging equipment to ensure they are installed properly and in good condition.
- ▶ Have the appropriate fire extinguishers and make sure they are easily accessible. Train all boaters on how to use them.
- ▶ Check your cooling and exhaust systems. Make sure they work properly.
- ▶ Turn off portable heaters when you leave the boat or go to sleep.
- ▶ Only use certified chargers for personal electronic devices. Don't overload power outlets.

In the marina:

- ▶ Ask about the types of fire and emergency features at the marina; including smoke alarms and fire-suppression equipment.
- ▶ Know where the fire extinguishers are located and how to escape.
- ▶ Smoke only in designated areas away from any fuel-filling or storage areas.
- ▶ Inspect shore power connections for any obvious signs of damage or improper installations.
- ▶ Know how to contact help.



If a fire does occur:

- ▶ Alert boat occupants and quickly get to a safe location.
- ▶ Discharge fire extinguishers from a safe location, or get to a safe location and contact the fire department.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov

