

Wearable Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

- Type I, II, III, or V, which can be lifejackets, for each person onboard
- “USCG approved” on the label with legible approval number
- Good and serviceable condition
- Must be the appropriate size and proper fit for the intended wearer. An adult should wear an adult size, and a child should wear a child size.
- Children under 13 YOA must wear a PFD at all times unless below decks or in an enclosed cabin
- Type IV, which is a PFD you can throw like a ring buoy, are required for vessels over 16 FT and must be immediately available

Sound Signaling Appliance

- Some means of producing an efficient sound signal with an audible range of 0.5 NM
- Bell, horn, or whistle

Fire Extinguishers

- One Type B, Size 1 also known as B-I onboard
- This does not need to be readily accessible but you should know exactly where to find it in case of an emergency
- “USCG approved” on the label
- Serviceable and in good condition
- Sufficient charge, which can be checked on the pressure gauge.

Lights

- The rules concerning lights shall be complied with from sunset to sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility like fog or rain
- All around white light and side lights

Visual Distress Signals

- Vessels less than 16 FT do not need visual distress signals, unless operating between at night sunset and sunrise
- Three red flare distress signals (handheld, parachute, or aerial) are sufficient
- Must be readily accessible
- Serviceable condition and not expired
- Legibly marked with approval or certification number

Other Recommended Equipment

- “Bug-Out Bag” – Portable survival kit
- Extra phone charger or battery pack
- VHF radio integrated with your GPS system
- Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) (examples)
- Signaling mirror
- Survival knife
- Flashlight
- Hypothermic blanket
- Extra food and water
- Basic first aid kit with sufficient medication