

The State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat and Water Safety Rules require that all watercraft offered for rent, lease or hire must be safety inspected annually *before* being rented. The Sheriff's Water Patrol will start conducting rental boat inspections in April. These inspections will include the following areas:

- **Lights:** All motorized watercraft must display the correct lights for their class from sunset to sunrise when underway or at anchor. Red and green lights must be visible at a distance of one mile and white lights at a distance of two miles.
- **Life Jackets:** Must have an adequate number of U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation devices in usable condition to cover different size customers of the rental watercraft. On watercraft 16 feet and longer, there must also be at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable device onboard the rental watercraft.
- **Fire Extinguishers:** All watercraft with enclosed fuel containers must have a Coast Guard approved, fully charged and accessible fire extinguisher. Depending on the size of the watercraft, additional fire extinguishers will be needed.
- **Oars / Paddles / Pole:** No watercraft shall be rented or offered for rent unless it is equipped with a pair of oars and oarlocks, a paddle or a pole – in serviceable condition.
- **Registration:** All watercraft must be licensed through the Department of Natural Resources. Motorized watercraft must display the State sticker and numbers on both sides of the forward portion of the craft. Non-motorized canoes, kayaks, rowing shells, etc. must have the State sticker on both sides of the forward portion of the craft. Registration cards must either be kept on the watercraft or the owner's business name is to be legible printed on the rear half on both sides of the craft in the same size and manner as registration numbers.
- **Watercraft Condition:** No watercraft can be rented or offered for rent which is broken, rotten or otherwise hazardous.

An *Inspection Report* must be filled out and submitted to Water Patrol *before* scheduling an inspection. Click the following link where all information and forms are available: <http://waterpatrol.org/formdownload.html#rentalform>. The form must be filled out prior to inspection. You can fill the form out online and click on the shaded box and your form will be sent directly to our office.

Fill in the registration numbers, type, length and make of watercraft, maximum occupancy and the number of life jackets onboard each watercraft. **All expired stickers *must be removed*** prior to inspection.

Once we receive the completed form, you will be contacted to schedule the inspection.