



Winter Safety Guidelines

As we prepare for another winter we would like to remind you of some important procedures and housekeeping items that we should all be practicing too prepare our boats for a safe and carefree winter here at the marina.

- Fires on boats are always a concern. Be sure that you have multiple fire extinguishers on board within easy reach and that they are fully charged.
- Electric cords must be UL-Marine listed. No household electric extension cords are permitted. The link to our [Safety and Care of Power Cords](#) should be reviewed yearly. Heaters should only be used as directed by the manufacturer. Portable heaters must be of the kind that shut off automatically when they are tipped over
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning is even more prevalent in the winter when the boats are buttoned up securely. Proper ventilation is a must - as is a functioning CO alarm system. Check your batteries.
- Slip and Falls are common in the winter months when black ice may cover the docks in the mornings. Be careful and walk cautiously. Ice melt will be provided at the base of every gangway – make use of it. Boat owners are responsible for clearing their finger piers.
- Improper winterization of a vessels water lines can cause lines to split and possibly sink a boat. Turn off the fresh water supply to your boat when you are not on board (there are systems available that can do this automatically if the water runs continuously for an extended period of time).
- Be sure that all exhaust systems are winterized and all seacocks closed
- Lock your boats at night and when you are away. If an intruder tries to access your vessel while you are on board we suggest that you keep your horn handy and use the “danger doubt” signal.....5 quick blasts... This will scare away anyone on your boat and alert your neighbors. Do not let people in the gates unless you know them personally. Dial 911 and report any incidents and notify the dockmaster.
- Extra storm lines are connecting the boats and are across fairways. Please do not remove them.
- Insurance is your ultimate protection. Be sure that your insurance policy recognizes that your winter lay-up is in the water and if you liveaboard that your liveaboard status is recognized or coverage could be null and void. Some insurance companies, including Progressive, do not allow coverage for any liveaboards. Many insurance companies and marinas also do not allow subletting. Constitution Marina does not allow sub-letting and also requires that the marina be listed as an “additional insured” on the policy. Check your policies to make sure your circumstances are covered.
- Before connecting to Comcast cable or internet services be sure to call the office. Do not give Comcast your slip number or allow Comcast to assign you one... you must get the proper number from the marina office or you could cause other boaters to have their service cut off by Comcast.
- Winter water is supplied for your convenience. Be sure to access it properly. You should only pull up the main water supply once to make your winter connection. If you are not sure please call the office.
- Holding tank pump outs are performed thru-out the winter. Our marina systems on the pumpout boat and the land station need to be winterized after each use Do not expect your boat to be pumped out the day you call in...get on the schedule and we will make sure your tank is pumped. If the boat is shrinkwrapped or not you must install a special adaptor to your deck plate in order to be pumped out in the winter. **Pumpout's will only be done if the finger has been cleared of snow.**
- All vessels must be fully sound and sea-worthy and comply with the requisite boating safety equipment as per federal regulations (CFR 33).
- If you see something that could present a hazard report it to the office immediately.
- The marina has extra safety equipment on site...including dock lines, fire extinguishers, emergency pumps, bouys, spill containment supplies, and first aid supplies. Call the marina after 911 during an emergency.