

Sailing Program Safety: Ten Safety Action Steps for this Season

Presented by Gowrie Group
Kellie Crete & Whitney Peterson



Ten Safety Action Steps for this Season

1. Drones
2. Emergency Action Plans
3. VHF Radio Usage
4. Docks, Floats & Boat Racks
5. Electric Shock Drowning
6. Electrical Cords
7. Electrocution
8. Fire Extinguishers
9. Flammables & Gas Storage
10. Prop Guards

Bonus: Safety Tools & Templates

Understand Drone Safety & Liability Exposures

Drone Safety Action Steps

- **Get Licensed:** In most cases, drone usage by a sailing organization comes under the FAA's Commercial usage definition and requires the **drone operator to be a licensed**.
- **Register Your Drones:** All drones weighing more than ½ pound and less than 55 pounds must be **registered with FAA** and marked with a Registration Number.
- **Follow FAA Drone Operating Rules:** The FAA provides rules and regulations for drone operation which apply to both commercial and recreational drone usage.
- **Understand Your Liability Exposure:** Flying a drone without coverage can expose you, your assets, and your organization to lawsuits and claims for bodily injury or property damage.
- **Get the Insurance Coverage You Need:** Drones are often excluded from standard liability policies; organizations and individuals need standalone drone insurance:
 1. **Verify Episodic Drone Insurance.** Policies purchased for a specific time window (1, 4, or 8 hours) and specific usage area (¼ mile to 2 mile radius circles). Policies are purchased using the Verify App or online at www.verify.com/gowrie and use code "Gowrie"
 2. **Annual Drone Insurance Policy.** Organizations looking for a broad, annual drone insurance policy can get a quote and purchase a policy using Gowrie's drone insurance portal at <https://gowrie.aeroinsure.com/DTM/US/UAS/Home>




Emergency Action Plan: Team with Local Authorities

Develop and Document Your Plan:

- Start with a **Template** (from another club or Gowrie/Burgee Program)
- Work with local emergency authorities (**Coast Guard, fire department, police, harbor master**)
- Determine **optimal location(s)** for emergency transfers
- Document and review **how to contact each authority** (phone, VHF, 911)
- Review how **jurisdictions change from water to land**
- **Teamwork = local emergency authorities want to work with you!**

SHYC Emergency Response Pick-Up Locations



	Name	Description	Address	Nearest Cross Street
A	Sachems Head Yacht Club	Enter between 2 stone pillars, between 59 & 66 Chimney Corner Circle. Walk over bridge.	61 Chimney Corner Circle, Guilford CT	Prospect Ave. and Falcon Rd.
B	Sachems Assoc. Dock/Ramp	Back of harbor. Dead End of Colonial Rd.	Between 539 and 600 Colonial Rd, Guilford CT	Uncas Point Rd.
C	Sachems Head Assoc. Pier	First right after 219 West Uncas Point Rd.	Next to 219 West Uncas Point Road, Guilford CT	Old Sachems Head Rd.

- IF IN THIMBLE ISLANDS: **Stony Creek Ferry Dock**. 4 Indian Point Rd, Branford. Stony Creek Village.
- IF NEAR FAULKNER'S OR JACOBS BEACH: **Guilford Town Marina**. End of lower Whitfield Street.

Emergency Numbers	SHYC Main Numbers
911	Clubhouse & Launch: 203-453-9207, VHF #72
Guilford Police/Fire: 203-453-8000, 911	Sailing Director: Scott Leppert, 860-817-7305
Guilford Town Marina: VHF #16, 203-453-8092	Commodore: Rob Wilber, 203-627-6599
US Coast Guard: VHF #16, 203-468-4401	Fleet Captain: Peter Ginz, 203-623-7240



Practice Your EAP: Conduct a Pre-Season Drill

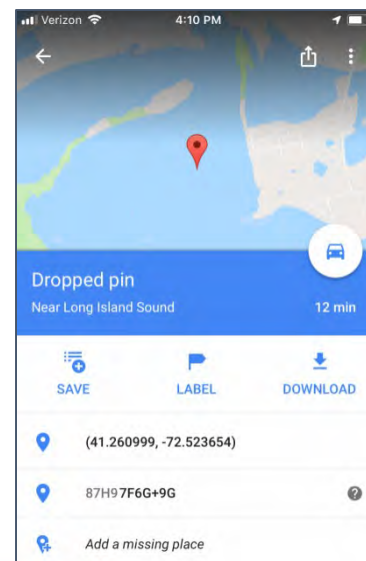
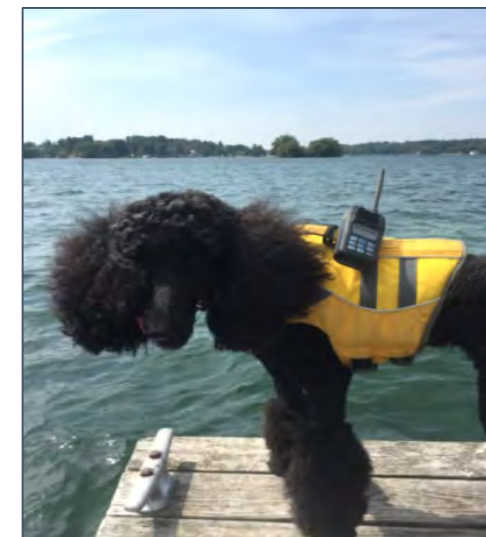
Emergency Safety Drill, Pequot Yacht Club, CT, 2018



Train Your Team on VHF & Location Awareness

Implement VHF Best Practices:

- **Assign a specific radio** to each staff member
- Mandate **radio checks** by your staff before leaving the dock
- Know **which VHF stations** are in use by all departments
- Know and respect **emergency VHF channels (16, 13, 9, 22a)**
- Know **proper VHF language (Mayday, PanPan, Over)**
- Know how and when to use **Hi/Low** power
- Always **wear your VHF** on the dock and water!



Make sure your seasonal staff knows where they are:

- Know your **location's physical address** (town, state, cross-streets)
- Know the **number/names of the closest government buoys**
- Use **visual landmarks** to clarify
- Know how to **drop a waypoint on your GPS** or **PIN on your phone**
- Know how to determine your **Lat/Long (using GPS or phone)**

Follow OSHA Standards and Building Codes for Docks, Floats and Racks

Key Safety Topics:

- Slips, trips and falls
- Lines
- PFD & Lifejackets
- Fire Extinguishers
- Life Rings
- Railings vs. Jungle Gyms
- Escape Ladders



Download Gowrie [Dock Safety](#) report

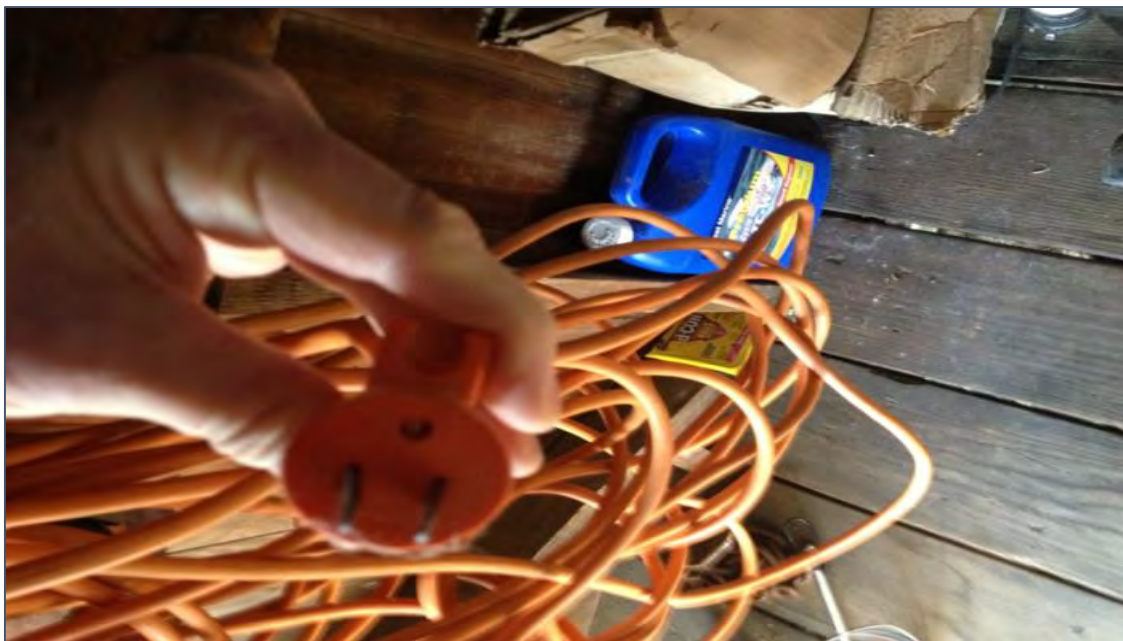
Prevent Electric Shock Drowning

Steps to Prevent Electric Shock Drowning (ESD):

- Post **“No Swimming”** signs on/near docks powered by 120v AC power
- Make sure **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)** are installed on shore power pedestals and marina wiring circuits
- Have **powered docks inspected by qualified electricians** who are familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes
- Have **boats inspected** by an electrician with current ABYC Electrical Certification or an ABYC Certified Technician
- Always select **safe locations for JR Sailing Swim Tests** (never on powered docks; always in shallow/calm water)
- Connect with **Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association**
- Download our [Gowrie ESD Safety](http://www.electricschockdrowning.org/) report



Understand OSHA's Guidelines for Use of Electrical Cords and Extension Cords



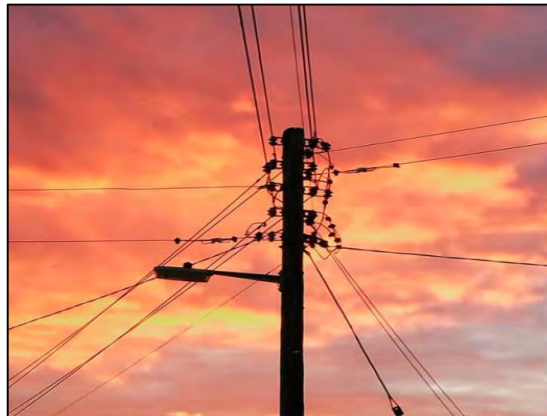
Download our [Electrical Cords Safety](#) report



Respect Electricity

Take Action - Prevent Electrocution of Sailors:

- Conduct an **annual walk-through inspection** of all dry-sail areas, parking lots, and launching areas for overhead wires, transmission lines, and power lines
- **Post signage and implement safety measures** to identify and mitigate any electrical safety hazards
- Remind instructors and sailors to **look-up for overhead wires and hazards** every time when unloading, rigging, launching, and derigging (especially in new locations and at travel regattas)



Comply with OSHA's Fire Extinguisher Standards



Key Safety Topics:

- Placement
- Clearance
- Type
- Training
- Inspection

Check to see if your Kidde branded extinguishers were RECALLED (11/2/17)

Download our [Fire Extinguishers Safety](#) report

Ensure Flammables and Gas are Safely Stored & Handled



Prop Guards: Consider Installing on Safety Boats and Teach Safe Boating

Know the Facts:

- **Propeller Accident Stats:** For 2017, the USCG reported 172 propeller accidents, 162 injuries, and **31 fatalities**
- **Suffolk County New York Signs Prop Guard Legislation** (August 2018): In response to Centerport Yacht Club tragedy, law requires prop guards on all vessels in Suffolk Country waterways used to instruct children under age 18

Develop a Culture of Safe Boating at Your Organization:

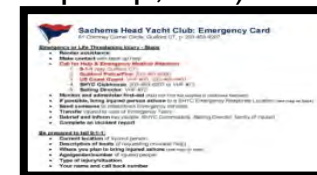
- **Train your staff** on powerboat skills – host a **US Powerboating Class** on-site for your staff each summer!
- Consider installing **prop guards** on boats used around children
- Require sailing coaches and staff to use **engine cutoff “kill” switches**
- Before starting engines, **check the area** around the propeller
- Never approach anyone in the water in **reverse**
- **Never put the boat in gear** if swimmer or sailor is nearby in water or on swim platform
- **Stop the engine** when there is a risk of contact with someone who is in the water
- Do not allow anyone to **bow-ride or ride on the gunwales**
- **Do not allow anyone to sit on the pontoons of a RIB**
- **Communicate changes** in direction or speed to passengers



Provide Your Team with Emergency & Safety Tools

Suggested Instructor Safety Equipment – Everyday Kit/Backpack (if your budget allows):

- Waterproof backpack or bag
- First aid kit (band aids, gauze, scissors, gloves, mask, tweezers, cold pack, etc.)
- Grease pencil (for writing on wet boats, “X” on hull = already searched)
- Basic tool kit (screwdriver, vice grips, duck tape, tell tails, extra small line, etc.)
- Rigging knife or Gil Personal Rescue Knife
- Whistle
- Water
- VHF Radio (and radio check)
- PFD
- Emergency Action Plan/Card
- Mask/Googles
- Standard small boat equipment (anchor, tow rope, flares (on boats 16'+), compass, paddle, throwable floatation aid, hand pump, etc.)
- Safety Check-Lists



Utilize Check Lists: Weekly and Self-Evaluation

THE BURGEE PROGRAM
By Gowrie Group

Burgee Program: Weekly Safety Check List

Inspected by: _____ Date: _____

	YES	NO	CLEAN	CHECK
1. EXTENSION CORDS:				
No cuts or bare wire				
Ground pins in place				
No trip hazards				
No cords going through/over doorways				
2. ELECTRICAL PANEL:				
Accessible				
Doors working				
No missing breakers				
3. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:				
Accessible				
Charged				
Signs in place				
4. SAFETY GLASSES:				
In use as needed				
Goggles or face shields in designated areas				
5. EXIT S:				
Clear				
Signs in place				
6. HAZARDOUS AREAS:				
Properly labeled				
Stored in proper area				
7. SAFETY SIGNS:				
In proper locations?				
8. EYE WASH STATIONS:				
Accessible				
Containers full and sealed				
9. HOUSEKEEPING:				
Barrels empty				
Rags in proper container				
10. POWER TOOLS:				
Adjusted properly				
Grounded				
Good working order				
11. FLAMMABLE STORAGE CABINET:				
Nothing stored on top				
Doors completely shut				
All materials properly labeled and sealed				
12. FLAMMABLES IN FLAMMABLE STORAGE CABINET				
13. RESPIRATORS CLEANED?				

COMMENTS: _____

Club Manager Signature: _____ Date: _____

Gowrie Group | Burgee Program Safety | kellie@gowrie.com | 508.509.3788

Self Evaluation Checklist for Yacht Clubs and Sailing Organizations

Brought to you by:

THE BURGEE PROGRAM
By Gowrie Group

Training Facilities

Launch Area:	Yes	No	N/A*
• Launching and storage area clear of overhead power lines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Launch ramp:			
Solid construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good traction on walking surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequate maneuvering room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical not restricted to staff operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safe and adequate access to boats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Predetermined method of responding to forecast of adverse weather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Method of alerting students/instructors of impending bad weather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Trest -dial kits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriately stocked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Readily available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On board rescue boats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Students

	Yes	No	N/A*
• Swimming ability documented	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Age & weight limits for each class of boat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Minimum and maximum class size established	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Medical records for each student. Highlighted potentially hazardous medical conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Discipline protocol established for young students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Proper application signed by parent or guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Specific criteria for drop-off and pickup of students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Operations

	Yes	No	N/A*
• Pre and post sail safety check of all equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sufficient spare parts on hand for quick minor repairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Pre and post season checking:			
All boat rigging test sailed by proficient sailor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daglines captured to test buoyancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*N/A Not applicable.

Training Vessel

	Yes	No	N/A*
• Adequate for task and sea conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Evident:			
Self-righting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-bailing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Range of positive stability appropriate for conditions in which they will be used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Centerboard boats			
Self-righting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modified to prevent heeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Boat Maintenance

	Yes	No	N/A*
• Routine maintenance program in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Procedure for recording repairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Adequate safety equipment on each boat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Adequate arrangements for proper cleanup and equipment storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Safety Boats

	Yes	No	N/A*
• Rigged & available with operator when sail craft underway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Engine in excellent condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sufficient power to plane at 20 knots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Rigged to tow disabled sail craft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Towing kit and tackle on board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Adequate tools, safety & first aid on board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Capable of rescuing & returning all students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THE BURGEE PROGRAM
By Gowrie Group

www.burgeeprogram.com
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70 Essex Road Westbrook, CT 06498

The Burgee Program is managed by Gowrie Group, underwritten by Chubb Group, and endorsed by US SAILING.

Download our [Weekly Safety List template](#)

Designate a Safety Coordinator and Implement a Robust Safety Program

Be Proactive About Safety:

- Designate a Safety Coordinator/Manager
- Quarterly Safety Committee meetings
- Storm preparedness
- Emergency procedures (EAP)
- Safety drills
- Clubhouse & restaurant standards
- Dock safety & maintenance
- Pool & beachfront safety
- Clean marina environmental standards
- Junior sailing safety
- Safety signage
- Forms & waivers
- Accident reports
- SafeSport training

Utilize Available Safety Resources:

- Junior Sailing Safety Guide
- Club Safety Manual
- Standard Forms & Waivers
- Dock Safety Guidelines
- Hurricane Response Plan
- Emergency Action Plan Template
- SafeSport Training & Handbook
- Safety materials are available at: www.burgeeprogram.com



Key Actions: What to do back home

- **Take action on as many of these Top-10 Safety Topics** as you can
- Designate a “**Safety Coordinator/Manager**” or assign “**Safety**” as a **responsibility** to one of your board members or officers
- Form a **Safety & Risk Committee**
- Involve **your board members and officers** in active safety conversations
- Help your staff do a complete **pre-season safety self-inspection**
- Train your staff to do **weekly safety self-inspections**
- Document and practice your **Emergency Response Plan**
- **Talk to your insurance agent – use them as your advisor!**

A Sense of Calm Brought to you by The Burgee Program



CHUBB®

The Burgee Program today insures:

- Program began in 1988
- More than 50% of sailing organizations in US
- 1000+ plus sailing organizations
- More than 150 class associations
- 100's of community based programs

Team behind the program is best in class:

- Managed by the sailors and marine insurance experts at Gowrie Group
- Underwritten by CHUBB
- Endorsed by US SAILING

Learn more:

- Visit us at www.burgeeprogram.com
- Call us at 800.262.8911
- Email us at burgee@gowrie.com

Your Opinion Matters

Please open the **NSPS app**
and complete the **session survey** found in the
menu bar for a chance to win a **free drink ticket!**

Thank you for attending this session