



Lifeboats



# KAYAKING SAFETY PACK

RESPECT  
THE WATER



# BE INFORMED KNOW THE FACTS

**IN 2014, RNLI VOLUNTEER CREWS RESCUED 237 CANOEISTS AND KAYAKERS.**

**ON AVERAGE, FIVE CANOEISTS AND KAYAKERS DIE EACH YEAR. MOST OF THESE ARE MEN.**

The RNLI believes the number of deaths will be drastically reduced if every canoeist and kayaker:

- **CARRIES** a communication device in an easily accessible waterproof pocket/pouch
- **WEARS** proper kit to keep them warm and afloat in the water
- **CHECKS** the weather and water conditions before they head out
- **TELLS** somebody where they're going and when they'll return.

**IF YOU CAN'T REACH TO CALL FOR HELP, HELP CAN'T REACH YOU**  
Watch the film and see for yourself at [RNLI.org/KayakSafe](http://RNLI.org/KayakSafe)

# BE HEARD CARRY COMMUNICATION DEVICES

It is essential that you carry a communication device, such as a VHF radio, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or a mobile phone every time you go out on the water. This is your only means of calling for help if the unexpected happens and you end up in the water.



**KEEP YOUR COMMUNICATION DEVICE ON YOUR PERSON – IT'S NO USE IN YOUR BOAT IF YOU'RE IN THE WATER.**

**CARRY IT IN A WATERPROOF POUCH ON A LANYARD, SO YOU CAN'T DROP IT IF YOUR HANDS ARE COLD AND WET.**

[RNLI.org/KayakSafe](http://RNLI.org/KayakSafe)

# BE SEEN USE REFLECTIVE TAPE

Whenever you're on the water, your visibility is important. But during a rescue, it can be a lifesaver. Increase your visibility by sticking this SOLAS-approved reflective tape to your helmet, boat and paddle.

## HOW TO APPLY IT

Make sure your boat's surface is completely clean and dry. If the surface is cold to the touch, warm it slightly with a hairdryer or heat gun. Peel the backing paper off the SOLAS reflective tape strip, position the tape and smooth it down slowly to prevent air bubbles.

# BE IDENTIFIED WEAR AN ID STICKER

This ID sticker will save time – and potentially your life – in a rescue situation. Having your basic information allows others to raise the alarm and track you down if they find your boat unattended.

## HOW TO USE AND APPLY IT

Fill in your details using a thin, waterproof, permanent marker. We recommend placing the sticker within the hatch of your vessel, where it's dry but fairly visible. Make sure the boat's surface is completely clean and dry. If the surface is cold to the touch, warm it slightly with a hairdryer or heat gun. Peel the backing paper off the ID sticker, position it and smooth down slowly to prevent air bubbles.

**WRITE WITH PERMANENT MARKER**

# BE SURE

BEFORE YOU PADDLE AWAY, BE SURE TO CHECK:



AM I WEARING A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE?



CAN I EASILY REACH MY COMMUNICATION DEVICE IF MY VESSEL CAPSIZES OR FLOATS AWAY?



HAVE I CHECKED THE LOCAL WEATHER AND WATER CONDITIONS TODAY?



DOES SOMEBODY KNOW WHERE I'M GOING AND WHEN I'LL BE BACK?



ARE MY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR TODAY'S CONDITIONS?



DO I HAVE THE APPROPRIATE TRAINING FOR THIS TRIP?

## RNLI.org/RespectTheWater

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The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

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