



Information release

Stay safe while boating!

September 4th 2013, Kuujuuaq (Québec) – The Civil Security Department of the KRG would like to remind Nunavimmiut that even with the boating season coming to an end, navigating on rivers, lakes, coastal areas, as a captain or as passengers, requires taking into account various precautions in order to have a safe and enjoyable time.

The first and foremost precaution is to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) also known as a life jacket at all times, while on a vessel. The use of a PFD ensures that in the event of falling over board, you will stay afloat, remain able to breathe and be rescued by other passengers or vessels. The shock resulting from being in cold water generates stress on the body and prompts symptoms that range from increased heart rate and spikes in blood pressure to a stroke or heart attack, a loss in muscle control and choking on water.

Along with making sure each passenger wears a properly fitted PFD, captains need to ensure that their vessel is, at all-times, well-maintained and ready for use. Prior to departure, it is important to check weather and tide forecasts and advise friends and family of the destination and the expected return time. Very important to remember, drinking alcohol while navigating is a recipe for accidents and tragedies.

For short or long excursions some essential items are musts to ensure a safe trip:

- Compass and charts
- First aid kit
- Blankets
- Two oars (pautik)
- Extra rope
- Life jackets that properly fit, one for each person onboard
- Flashlight
- HF Radio, Satellite telephone or SPOT device, if possible
- Lighter or matches

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The Kativik Regional Government is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.