

Boating safety-✓-check it out!

With the arrival of the 1978 summer boating season, the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety is reminding boating enthusiasts to make a few preparations which will help ensure their safety on the water.

Here are some suggestions:

Examine your craft—Make needed repairs. Check for any hull damage, and inspect your fuel system, electrical system and ventilation ducts.

Examine your equipment—make sure that you have all equipment required by the U.S. Coast Guard. In particular, check your personal flotation devices and fire extinguishers. They must be the appropriate type (depending on the length of your boat) and they must be free from any defects.

Examine yourself—Are you totally familiar with all aspects

of small craft seamanship? Do you know how to cope with any emergency situation that might arise? If not, now is the time to take a boating course from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, Red Cross, or State and local boating authorities.

Once your boat is in the water, the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety also advises:

Know and obey the rules of

the road.

Carry a compass—It's especially useful in large bodies of water.

Keep an alert lookout—Serious accidents have resulted from failure to observe events taking place around you.

And finally, it's strongly recommended that you request a Courtesy Marine Examination from your local Coast Guard