
Boat Accident Prevention Toolkit (Louisiana)

A print-friendly checklist to reduce crash risk and preserve proof.

Use this toolkit before you launch and after any close call. It helps you prevent common collisions and document what happened while details are fresh.

Pre-Launch Checklist

- Check the forecast and look for fast-moving storms.
- Confirm a properly sized life jacket for each rider.
- Test navigation lights and your sound signal device.
- Carry a VHF radio or charged phone in a dry bag.
- File a float plan with someone on shore.
- Assign a sober operator and a lookout.

Underway Habits That Prevent Crashes

- Run at a speed that lets you stop and avoid hazards.
- Scan for wakes, swimmers, and blind corners near docks.
- Keep a safe distance and reduce speed in no-wake zones.
- Rotate drivers to avoid fatigue on long trips.
- Keep passengers seated and hands inside the boat.
- Avoid alcohol and distractions while operating.

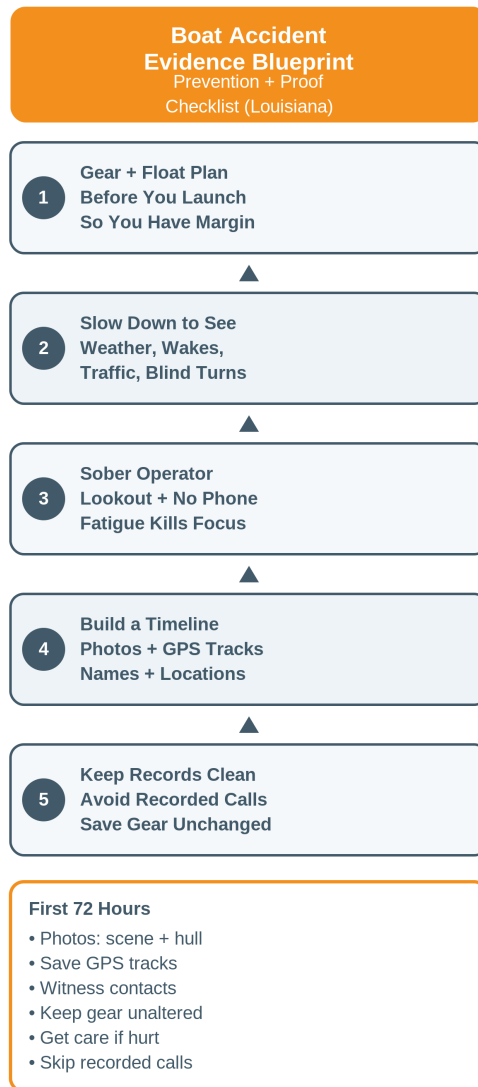
If Something Happens: Evidence Checklist

- Call for help and get everyone to a safe position first.
- Take wide photos of the scene before boats move if safe.
- Photograph hull marks, prop damage, and any fixed objects.
- Screenshot your GPS track, speed, and the time of the event.
- Write down witness names and contact details.
- Keep gear and life jackets in the same condition you found them.
- Get medical care if anyone hit their head or went under water.
- Do not give a recorded statement until you understand the claim.

Next pages include the two infographics you can keep on your phone or print for your boat bag.

Infographic 1: Evidence Blueprint

Five steps to reduce risk and preserve proof after a boat incident.



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Infographic 2: Defense vs Evidence

Common insurance narratives and the records that counter them.

Defense Angle	Evidence Anchor
Low impact so no injury	Damage photos GPS / speed data Care notes
No collision you fell	Dock video Witness contacts Hull marks
No life jackets were available	PFD photos Size labels Receipts
Weather was obvious	Forecast screen Radar timing Trip log
Alcohol caused the crash	Sober plan Passenger notes Time-stamped pics

Tap for Defense Audit

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Babcock Injury Lawyers

When a boat crash happens, we help families protect the record.

Boat incidents often turn into fault fights, especially when there are no neutral witnesses. We focus on fast evidence preservation, clear timelines, and practical insurer communication so you are not arguing from memory.

What To Bring (If You Have It)

- Photos, videos, and the names of anyone who saw what happened.
- GPS track, chartplotter data, or app screenshots with time stamps.
- Your incident report number or the agency you notified.
- Insurance policy details for the boat and any involved parties.
- Medical visit notes if anyone was hurt.

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If you are within the first 72 hours, evidence can change quickly. Call as soon as you can, even if you do not have every document yet.