

- Don't drink or take drugs and then drive on the water - judgement is impaired, awareness and reaction times reduced, you're more likely to trip, slip and fall - and if you fall overboard it's more difficult to swim.

- Overhead power cables - look out, look up!
Lower masts.
Take care casting if you're fishing.



Going ashore

- If a mooring seems unsafe go on to the next one until you find a safe mooring.

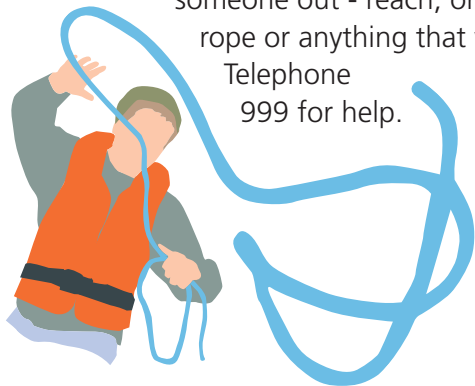
If you go ashore in the evening take a torch and spare batteries.

Plan your route back, try not to return alone, and remember, due to tides, the water may be higher or lower when you return. Your mooring may also be icy.

Rescue

Never enter the water to get someone out - reach, or throw a rope or anything that will float.

Telephone
999 for help.



Help!

Try to take a mobile phone, make sure it is charged and know your number.

Useful numbers

Emergencies 999

Coastguard, Police, Ambulance, Fire

Problems/advice Broads Control
Broads Authority 01603 756056

Police 0845 4564567
*non-emergency number for crime
and anti-social behaviour*

If you have to telephone in an emergency be as specific as possible about your location. Give:

- the name of the boat
- how many people are on board
- the name of the river
- the nearest village
- any nearby landmarks/post number
- the nearest 24 hour mooring site - this may include a grid reference



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Further information, Byelaws and Better Boating DVD available from the Broads Authority, Dragonfly House, 2 Gilders Way, Norwich NR3 1UB tel 01603 610734 fax 01603 756069 broads@broads-authority.gov.uk www.broads-authority.gov.uk



Winter Boating



Broads Authority
The Broads - a member of the National Park family



In the bleak midwinter ...

the Broads can be a lovely, wild place - quiet, full of winter bird life, crisp, cold and invigorating. But please remember there are extra things to consider. It's quiet because there are fewer people around and winter cold is much more enjoyable if you're warm and dry with food and a hot drink to hand if needed, than if you're wet and shivering on a remote riverbank ...

Still keen to go? **Then read on and Go Boating Safely!**

Broads Authority navigation rangers and Broads Control, tel 01603 756056, operate all year. For help with planning ahead, contact Broads Control.

Some visitor attractions may reduce their opening times or may be closed. Broads Authority information centres and yacht stations are closed November to March.

Planning ahead

- **Check the weather.** Keep checking as things can change, and adapt your plans - don't just carry on regardless.
- Remember, in an open boat or a sailing boat you're even more vulnerable to the elements and wind chill. Consider getting an immersion (dry) suit with built-in buoyancy.
- Exceptionally high water may cause flooding, and high winds can be dangerous. Rivers may be iced up or have ice in them even if roads are clear.
- **Never navigate through icy water.** There could be thicker ice hidden under the surface which could damage your boat or even make it sink. Some areas ice up quickly such as Womack Water, Barton Broad, Oulton Broad, Hardley Dyke and Langley Dyke.
- **Cold water is dangerous** - your chances of survival are extremely low if you fall in.

Low light levels will reduce visibility, and mist and fog can also be a problem. Boats must use suitable lights and sound signals.



- Make sure your boat engine is set up for winter use - with anti-freeze in it.
- Do not close any ventilators. Use only boat-based heating. Do not introduce any additional portable heaters - they can lead to poisoning or fires.
- Never go alone. Let people know where you are going and when you leave. Let them know when you return as well.
- **Things to take:** life-jacket, warm clothes, a change of clothes, strong waterproofs, footwear with good tread, a hot drink, food, a mobile phone, a torch and spare batteries, a VHF radio.

Out on the water

- **Wear a life-jacket** and be careful near and on the water. Always wear a life-jacket for boarding and leaving your boat as well as while it's underway. It's much easier to rescue a person wearing a life-jacket and much safer for the rescuer.
- Beware of ice on decks, ladders and moorings. Never walk on frozen waterways.
- Small boats can be unstable, especially if you're moving around as you are when fishing.
- Keep an eye on everyone on board, particularly children, and avoid sitting on the front of the boat.