



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BOAT SAFE CHICAGO ANNOUNCES PLAN & PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE BOATER SAFETY**

*Training classes begin this spring*

**Chicago, IL** — Chicago witnessed tragedy during the summer of 2022, garnering national media attention several times. And record numbers of boating accidents, including at least 43 fatalities throughout the year, tarnished the reputation of mariners on Lake Michigan.

Aspiring to improve the safety and security of our collective boating experience, a team of licensed Master Captains formed Boat Safe Chicago ([www.BoatSafeChicago.com](http://www.BoatSafeChicago.com)). With deep roots in the City's harbors and marinas, the training captain team includes:

- A Chicago Harbormaster with 25 years on the water
- A 9-year Navy Veteran with Wilderness First Aid Certifications
- A USCG 100-ton Captain with Years of Experience on Dive Boats, Marathon Open Ocean / Channel Swims, and Free-diving
- Several Private Airplane Pilots
- Maritime & Federal Law Enforcement Experts
- Water Rescue Professionals
- Red Cross Licensed Instructors

With the Chicago Harbors' full support and partnership with yacht and sailing clubs and maritime agencies, Boat Safe Chicago offers affordable basic and advanced boat safety training programs. Group classes will take place at Chicago Harbor community rooms and yacht clubs across the Chicagoland area. For those who require financial assistance, help is available. Boat Safe Chicago aims to make basic safety training accessible to all Chicagoland Boaters.

*"Chicago Harbors fully supports all maritime safety programs and training, including Boat Safe Chicago, as a group effort to improve the safety of the Chicagoland boating community, including educating operators of recreational and charter vessels." - Ben Alden, Chicago Harbors Operations Manager*

Chicago's ultra-exclusive River North charter yacht company, Coast Yachts, caters to the jet set. Known just as much for their high-net-worth clients as for their safety record, Coast Yachts hires US Coast Guard Master Captains who pre-trip a yacht like a preflight inspection on an airplane. Bearing witness to the uptick in reckless behavior in and around the water, Coast Yachts sees value in collaboration of training with Boat Safe Chicago.

*“I treat every charter guest like they are my family. I have over 50 years of boating experience around the world, and Boat Safe Chicago offers the most comprehensive training available to the public.”* – Captain Guy Morgan – Boat Safe Chicago Instructor & Charter Captain

Knot-My-Boat Charters (KMBC) operates out of 31st Street Harbor with a fleet of boats and yachts. In 2022, KMBC had over 2,000 trips with zero (0) accidents. KMBC, proactive with their client's safety, keeps a list of approved captains who auditioned and proved their pragmatic safety approach. So, when a group of friends charters a KMBC boat for a Saturday afternoon in the Chicago Playpen, those guests know they are in capable hands. Like Coast Yachts, KMBC puts passenger safety ahead of profits. Boat Safe Chicago proudly partners with these professional operators.

*“Our clients range from families, corporate retreats, all the way to the Playpen party crowd, and nothing is more important than their safety. It starts with the pre-trip safety briefing, and our weather policies, and procedures for where to anchor and let guests swim or raft.”* - Ryan Medley, Operations Manager - Knot My Boat Charters.

### **About Boat Safe Chicago:**

Founded in 2022, Boat Safe Chicago believes affordable, basic safety training tailored to the unique features of Chicago's waterways, improves our collective boating experience and keeps us all safer. Harnessing the power of unparalleled Captain knowledge and expertise, Boat Safe Chicago takes action and presents a training program that provides a foundation for safe boating and a training template for other maritime programs.

Get additional information at [www.BoatSafeChicago.com](http://www.BoatSafeChicago.com)

### **Quoted Contacts:**

Captain Guy Morgan (Boat Safe Chicago Instructor):

Ryan Medley (Knot My Boat Charters Operations Manager):

Ben Alden (Chicago Harbors Operations Manager):

[www.instagram.com/BoatSafeChicago](https://www.instagram.com/BoatSafeChicago)

[www.Youtube.com/BoatSafeChicago](https://www.Youtube.com/BoatSafeChicago)