

# BOAT SAFE CHICAGO



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## **BOAT SAFE CHICAGO 2023 TEAMS WITH UIC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH OUTREACH PROJECT TO COMBAT OPIOID OVERDOSES**

**Chicago, IL** — On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan (naloxone hydrochloride) 4 milligram nasal spray for over-the-counter use. Historically, Naloxone required a prescription. Narcan administration rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and saves lives.

According to the CDC, death rates from opioid overdose steadily climbed over the last 20 years. Recently though, opioid death rates are rising dramatically. In 2020, opioids were involved in more than 68,000 deaths, more than **eight** times the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths in 1999. Newer synthetic opioids, including Fentanyl, appear responsible for these exploding numbers.

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)). In addition to training captains and other mariners how to safely operate a vessel, Boat Safe Chicago is now working with Community Outreach Interventions Project (COIP), based at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, to teach the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose and how to administer Narcan to prevent death. COIP provides Boat Safe Chicago with a Narcan supply for distribution among boats and charters along the city's shoreline.

“In response to the dramatic increase in opioid misuse and drug overdose deaths, we are eager to work with Boat Safe Chicago to provide staff training and access to Narcan to save lives and educate the marine community about the risk for opioid overdose,” said Community Outreach Interventions Projects Director David Jimenez.

Promoting safety with Chicago Harbors and UIC, and in partnership with BoatUS, the National Safe Boating Council, Carefree Boat Club, and yacht and sailing clubs and other maritime agencies, Boat Safe Chicago offers affordable basic and advanced boat safety training programs. For those who require financial assistance, help is available. Boat Safe Chicago aims to make basic safety training, including Narcan administration training, accessible to all Chicagoland boaters.

Chicago's Burnham Park Yacht Club (BPYC) was one of the first organizations to jump on board and offer Narcan training, "The most valued asset in any organization is their people," said Commodore Jack Mancione, "We are so proud of the BPYC Staff for their willingness to learn

how to help other people by participating in the Boat Safe Chicago Narcan program! Captain Meyer's knowledge & loyalty for the safety of the people who share our waters is unprecedented."

Book upcoming sessions online at [www. BoatSafeChicago.com](http://www.BoatSafeChicago.com) including:

- 4/29 classroom training at the 31<sup>st</sup> Street Harbor Community Room
- BoatUS Foundation on-water training
- Recreational Boating Class for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students
- Commercial Charter training for owners, operators, captains, and crew
- Private lessons with a master captain
- Narcan administration training
- AED training

Boat Safe Chicago hosts an online database of trained and certified captains and charter companies that put safety ahead of profits.

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

Founded in 2022, Boat Safe Chicago believes affordable, basic safety training tailored to Chicago's waterways' unique features 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)

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