

# BOAT SAFE CHICAGO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2023

Contact: Jon Meyer  
Master Captain  
[Jon@BoatSafeChicago.com](mailto:Jon@BoatSafeChicago.com)  
616-510-0106

## **BOAT SAFE CHICAGO 2023 CLASSROOM TRAINING BEGINS MARCH 24, UTILIZING THEIR NATIONALLY APPROVED CURRICULUM**

*Classes are now open to the public, register online at [www.BoatSafeChicago.com](http://www.BoatSafeChicago.com)*

**Chicago, IL** — Chicago witnessed tragedy during the summer of 2022, garnering national media attention. 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 California dive master with a 100-ton vessel license
- Airplane pilots
- Maritime law enforcement experts
- Water rescue professionals
- Red Cross licensed instructors and lifeguards

Sponsored by the Chicago Harbors and in partnership with yacht and sailing clubs and 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 accessible to all Chicagoland boaters.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**3/25:** Museum Shores Yacht Club, located in beautiful Jackson Park, hosts a general boater's class discussing the challenges of boating in Chicago

- 4/14:** Classes begin at the 31<sup>st</sup> Street Harbor Community Room including:
- Recreational Boating Class for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students
  - Commercial Charter training for owners, operator, captains, and crew
  - Private lessons with a master captain

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

*"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

### **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:**

Ben Alden (Chicago Harbors Operations Manager):