



Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips

ON THE WATER



1. Before heading out for the start of the season, have your vessel mechanically checked over and in tip-top shape. Make sure all the required [Essential Safety Equipment](#) is on board, check your first aid kit, extinguisher and make sure your Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are in service. Check dates on flares – dispose those out-of-date via the [Expired Flares Collection Program](#). Pick up the current [NSW Boating Handbook](#) and [Personal Watercraft Handbook](#).
2. If you intend to travel 2 or more nautical miles offshore, an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) is required by law, tho' it is recommended even within 2nm. It must be within the manufacturer's expiry date & registered with the [Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#) (AMSA). Visit AMSA for the [Safety equipment checklist](#) for your vessel. Carry the required safety equipment and enough clean fuel for your journey.
3. Understand the difference between powerboats, personal watercraft (PWC, including jet-powered surfboards) and other vessels, because the navigation and equipment rules are different for each type of boat. View the [Safety and Rules on NSW Waterways](#). Any PWC should utilise a 'Kill Switch Lanyard'.
4. Every skipper is responsible for the safety of their vessel and all on board. Every trip, ensure the vessel and equipment is suitable for the conditions and waterway (open or enclosed waters). Ensure you and all aboard wear a lifejacket: kids' should be brightly-coloured and well-fitted. Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back. Plan your trip. Always keep a proper lookout.
5. Check the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) official weather forecast before and regularly during boating: [Five Vital Checks](#). The FREE [DECKEE Boating & Fishing App](#) has detailed marine weather, location sharing, map guidance and safety alerts.
6. Plan ahead for your day out on the water, and be prepared for the conditions and predict any common on-water risks you may face. You may find the following useful; [PWC Restricted Zones](#), [SLS NSW Beach Safe App](#).
7. For every trip offshore, log on/off whenever you head out/return, via the Marine Rescue NSW FREE [Marine Rescue App](#). In boating emergencies use radio VHF Ch16 or 27MHz Ch88 or call the NSW Police on Triple zero (000). Use a waterproof cover for mobile phones.
8. Record all details of your boat and equipment (plus water sport equipment), including serial numbers, and keep this in a safe place. Photograph & engrave any valuable items, your dinghy and equipment with your driver's licence number. An engraver can be borrowed FREE from [Neighbourhood Watch \(NHW\) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby](#).
9. Don't hide spare keys on your watercraft. Don't kid yourself—thieves know all the best hiding places! When you leave your boat unattended (even short periods), remove the key from the

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1800 333 000
REPORT NON-EMERGENCY/POLICE TO ATTEND NON-URGENTLY (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
POLICE COMMUNITY PORTAL (Online reporting of minor crime/lost property)	portal.police.nsw.gov.au
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 979
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1 800 555 727

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ignition & lock any equipment out-of-sight (e.g., navigational, depth sounding).

10. Consider installing a high-quality alarm, tracking/security system and/or locking devices on the steering wheel or transmission shift—all good deterrents. Security devices installed on boats should be resistant to water, salt and humidity, i.e. a special exterior hatch locks, special locks & fasteners for boat windows, etc.
11. Consider installing a fuel cut-out switch and/or engine immobiliser—the most effective way to beat a thief. Fit an anti-theft device to your trailer. Fit rego plate locking screws to your number plates - request from [NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby](#).
12. Don't leave personal papers such as your licence or registration on the boat. They may be used to dispose of the vessel. However, do keep with you a note of your vehicle registration & information.
13. Use a trailer boat wheel lock in front of your home, on the driveway, in the garage and in the street. Unlike your home, a thief can just tow your boat away. It is better to store it out of sight, in a locked garage, mini-storage, or secure boat storage facility. Store it with the trailer tongue not easily accessible. If parked on a driveway, park another vehicle in front of the trailer. Consider removing a wheel. Use a chain & lock to secure the trailer to an anchor point. Use a good quality trailer hitch lock, even if stored out of sight. If parked on a street, it must be moved every 28 days.
14. If your boat is kept in water, use a marina with full time security and good lighting. When in berth, look out for one another. The most effective alarms are switched-on people! If you see someone acting suspiciously, please report it to the police. Check your boat on a regular basis.
15. Know your boat's limit and do not load beyond it. It's worth making two trips.
16. Refrain from alcohol or illegal drugs. Driving a boat under the influence puts everyone on the water at risk. Alcohol limits apply to the driver, observer in a vessel towing a person, and anyone being towed. Visit the [NSW Alcohol Limits](#).
17. Operators of vessels which are underway (including drifting) may be subject to Random Breath Tests (RBT) or Mobile Drug Testing (MDT) by the Police. Police work with NSW Maritime, conducting patrols and enforcement on local waterways.
18. Always maintain, check, and use your lights as per the [NSW Navigation Lights Marine Rules](#).
19. When pulling up in a berth, if you think you're going slowly enough, go even slower! This allows for sudden gusts and minimises wash - see [Vessel Wash Rules on NSW Waterways](#).
20. Pick up a free copy of the current [NSW Recreational Fishing Guide](#). If you suspect illegal fishing activity, contact the Fishers Watch phone line: **1800 043 536** or to [DPI Fisheries](#). Further links on fishing related matters can be found on the DPI Fisheries website and on our [NHW WatchOut.org.au Boating](#) page (e.g. FREE Resuscitation Chart). Use the FREE DPI Fisheries [FishSmart App](#).

And... see the illustration below showing a great trick for hauling someone out of the water.



This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.

Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: <https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/Tips/>.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: [WatchOut.org.au](https://www.watchout.org.au).

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