

USCG Float Plan - BOATING EMERGENCY GUIDE™

BEFORE YOU BEGIN – This guide is designed to work either with or without a Float Plan. You will need the following items: 1) the Float Plan, if one was given to you; 2) a pen or pencil; 3) a clean sheet of paper or writing tablet; and 4) your local telephone directory.

Step 1: Do you have a genuine concern for the safety or welfare of any persons who have not returned or checked-in, in a reasonable amount of time?

If **yes**, then continue with **Step 2**. Otherwise **STOP** -- no further action is required at this time.

Step 2: Were you given a prepared Float Plan by anyone on board the vessel?

If **yes**, then continue with **Step 3**. Otherwise, go to **Step 5**.

Step 3: Locate the Contacts at the top of page 2 on the Float Plan. Call Contact number 1...

IF CONTACT #1	THEN						
Answers phone	Take notes during your conversation. 1. Let the person know you are responding to a late return or check-in by the individuals designated on the Float Plan. 2. Determine if the person you are talking to, or anyone else at that location, has recently had contact with anyone on the vessel, and when and where that contact occurred. 3. Are you still concerned about the safety or welfare of any persons on board the vessel? <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>IF</th> <th>THEN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>Continue with Step 4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>STOP. No further action is required.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	IF	THEN	Yes	Continue with Step 4 .	No	STOP . No further action is required.
	IF	THEN					
Yes	Continue with Step 4 .						
No	STOP . No further action is required.						
Does not answer phone	Continue with Step 4 .						

Step 4: Call Contact number 2...

IF CONTACT #2	THEN						
Answers phone	Take notes during your conversation. 1. Let the person know you are responding to a late return or check-in by the individuals designated on the Float Plan. 2. Determine if the person you are talking to, or anyone else at that location, has recently had contact with anyone on the vessel, and when and where that contact occurred. 3. Are you still concerned about the safety or welfare of any persons on board the vessel? <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>IF</th> <th>THEN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>Continue with Step 6.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>STOP. No further action is required.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	IF	THEN	Yes	Continue with Step 6 .	No	STOP . No further action is required.
	IF	THEN					
Yes	Continue with Step 6 .						
No	STOP . No further action is required.						
Does not answer phone	Continue with Step 6 .						

Step 5: Using the checklist below, jot down only what you know about each item:

DO NOT SPECULATE. Incorrect information may mislead Search and Rescue personnel; add to the overall search and rescue time; and adversely affect the outcome.

- Period of time the vessel has been overdue.
- Purpose of the trip or voyage.
- Description of vessel. (Type, size, color, features, etc.)
- Vessel's departure point and destination.
- Places the vessel planned to stop during transit.
- Navigation equipment aboard. (Examples: GPS, radar, compass, sounder, etc.)
- Number of persons aboard. Relevant characteristics such as dependability, reliability, etc.
- Was the vessel initially docked or moored or did a vehicle tow it to a launch point?
- License plate number and description of the tow vehicle and/or the passenger's transport vehicle.
- Communications equipment aboard, including type of radio and frequencies monitored, cellular or satellite telephone numbers of individuals, etc.
- Additional points of contact along the vessel's planned route.
- Operator and/or a passenger/crew member absolutely had to be back at the scheduled return time.
- Call your local Rescue Authority that responds to marine emergencies (Police, Sheriff, Constable, First responder, etc.).

Go to **Step 6-2**.

Step 6:

1. Call the Rescue Authority contact at the top of page 2 on the Float Plan.
2. Tell the dispatcher you are responding to a late return or check-in by the persons on board the vessel.
3. The dispatcher will instruct you from there.

Note: The dispatcher will provide you with the necessary contact or agency connection to get a search and rescue mission started. This puts you in direct contact with the agency conducting the actual search and rescue, eliminating unnecessary middlemen.
 The dispatcher will tell you if he/she desires a follow-up call on the outcome of the rescue.

4. Continue with **Step 7**.

Step 7: Be patient... you've done everything you can possibly do for now. It is important to keep the telephone available so emergency personnel can contact you with additional information and/or questions concerning the search and rescue effort.

STOP -- End of Guide

Provided as a courtesy by:
<Unit or Organization Name>
 <City>, <State>
 <phone number>
 <website URL>
Get a Vessel Safety Check before you go boating.



The USCG Float Plan is the official Float Plan of the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For more information visit:

www.floatplancentral.org