

America's Boating Channel Urges Use of Engine Cut-Off Devices

Are you aware of the legal requirement for using engine cut-off devices? This is a requirement that could save your life.



The requirement to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) took effect on April 1, 2021, and applies to all U.S. waterways, with fines of \$100, \$250, and \$500 for the first, second, and third offenses, respectively. State and local authorities may choose to enforce the law differently, but using an engine cut-off switch is now the law for qualified vessels everywhere in the United States.

The law applies to all personal watercraft and recreational boats under 26 feet with motors capable of 115 pounds of static thrust (a little under 3 horsepower). Boats not currently equipped with an engine cut-off switch are exempt, but that grandfather clause is closing fast. Another recent federal law required manufacturers to install engine cut-off switches on all new boats starting in January 2020.



Videos are available that offer an overview of the importance of specialized safety equipment for recreational boating that will shut down the engine in an emergency such as the boat operator falling overboard. America's

Boating Channel™ produced these videos to help viewers learn about traditional lanyard type devices, as well as the new wireless systems.

Watching videos like "[Engine Cut-Off Devices](https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk)" (<https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk>) is an excellent way for boaters to prepare for safer experiences on the water. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[Wear an ECOS](https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0)" (<https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0>). It covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities.

You can follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.



Available on YouTube, America's Boating Channel offers quick and easy access to professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.