

## **BOATING SAFETY**

Safety is crucial during your charters. Good seamanship involves the practice of safety at sea and keeping sailors, vessels and the environment safe. Good management and maintenance of a vessel are critical to its safety for its passengers. Some good questions to always keep in mind are:

- Emergency numbers and contacts
- Constantly check the weather, be aware of wind, storm and water temperatures. Make plans to deal with rough weather whether that be at sea or reaching a safe harbor.
- Making sure you know how to operate all your vessels means of emergency communications and that they are all functional.
- Man overboard situations. Envision different situations first in calm, warm, shallow water, and again in more extreme conditions
- Does your rigging have to be adjusted in case of rough weather. Rig cutting in the case of a severe emergency may have to be thought about.
- Are you familiar with all your safety equipment. Is it all easily at hand and does everyone onboard know their location. This could include everything from lifejackets, whistles, safety tethers, throw rings, flares, horns and bells and life rafts.
- Firefighting while onboard.
- How to abandon the vessel in the safest and most organized way.
- Understanding the current way the vessel pumps out water and how to use all her pumps both manually and automatically as well as hull patching and plugging her hull if necessary.
- How to regain control of the vessel if your steering fails.
- Where the medical supplies are and how to administer them.
- When and how to report incidents and accidents to the United States Coastguard.
- Making sure that the Captain and crew know how to alcohol swab themselves.
- Are all lines stowed away neatly and is the deck space clear of all clutter.