

# LAKE & BOAT SAFETY TIPS

LAKE HOUSTON IS PATROLLED BY THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S LAKE PATROL DIVISION, TEXAS STATE TROOPERS, AS WELL AS TEXAS GAME WARDENS.



**90% OF ALL DROWNINGS OCCUR WHEN A PERSON IS NOT WEARING A LIFE JACKET.**



- **Wear a Life Jacket:** All vessels are required by law to have a life jacket on board for each passenger.
- **Familiarize Yourself with the Lake:** Know what zone you are in and have an idea of what zones you will be traveling through to get to your destination. Be aware!
- **Communicate:** Tell other people where you are going and when you plan to return.
- **Balance Your Boat:** Be sure to balance the gear in your boat and don't overload it. You may capsize it.
- **Be Time Aware:** Make sure you don't get caught in the dark on the water by checking the time for sunrise and sunset.
- **Be Weather-Wise:** Always check local weather conditions before departure. If there is bad weather ahead, it might be best to stay off lakes and rivers.
- **Double check for wind advisories** before heading out on the water, especially for small watercraft.
- **Prepare for anything:** Carry a first aid kit, a survival kit, and be prepared for an overnight stay if things don't go as planned.
- **Know the signs of drowning:** Drowning happens fast and silently, be vigilant of those in the water.
  - **Signs to look for** include a head tilted backward and arms that are pushing downward.
  - **Distressed swimmers** may be clinging to any object floating on the water, treading or bobbing in the water.



**DAVE  
MARTIN**  
MAYOR PRO TEM

## LAKE HOUSTON CONTACTS

ALL EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1

Houston Fire Station 65 (Huffman): (832) 394-6700

Houston Police Department (non-emergency): (713) 884-3131

HPD Kingwood Division - Lake Patrol Unit: (832) 394-9854