MAILING 08/08/2025

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER P-2 – BOATING

Note: Amendments to the Rules are added in red text and deletions are in red text with strikethrough.

 # 211 - Fire Extinguishers

1. Each item of fire extinguishing equipment required by this section must be Coast Guard approved, be fully charged and in good and serviceable condition, stowed away from the potential hazard area and readily accessible. Dry chemical stored pressure types must be fitted with pressure gauges or indicating devices and vaporizing liquid types containing carbon tetrachloride, chlorobromomethene or other toxic vaporizing liquids are prohibited.

    a. Good and Serviceable condition means:

        i. If the extinguisher has a pressure gauge reading or indicator it must be in the operable range or position;

        ii. The lock pin is firmly in place:

        iii. The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction;

        iv. Does not appear to have been previously used;

        v. The extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage; and

        vi. Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers shall be removed from service at the maximum interval of 12 years from the date of manufacture.

2. Extinguishers approved for use on motorboats are hand portable of either B-I or B-II classification. “B” type is for gasoline, oil, and grease fires. “I” and “II” denotes size as listed below:

    Classification

Type-Size	Foam (Minimum Gallons)	Carbon Dioxide (Minimum Pounds)	Dry Chemical (Minimum Pounds)	Freon (Minimum Pounds)
B-I	1-1/4	4	2	2-1/2
B-II	2-1/2	15	10	.

    Fire Extinguisher Required

Class	Number and Size
A	1 B-I
1	1 B-I
2	2 B-I or 1 B-II
3	3 B-I or 1 B-II & 1 B-I

3. When the engine compartment is equipped with a fixed extinguishing system of approved type, one less B-I extinguisher is required.

4. Outboard motorboats less than twenty-six feet in length, of open construction, not carrying passengers for hire, are exempt from these requirements, although one B-I fire extinguisher for personal fire protection and to assist other boaters is recommended.

5. The motorboat is not considered “of open construction” if any one or more of the following conditions exist:

    a. Closed compartment under thwarts (motor well) and seats wherein portable fuel tanks may be stored.

    b. Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation material.

    c. Closed living spaces.

    d. Closed stowage compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored.

    e. Permanently installed fuel tanks.

 # 218 - Prohibited Operation

1. The term “wake” means a movement of the water created by a boat underway, great enough to disturb a boat at rest, but under no circumstances shall a boat underway exceed five (5) miles per hour while in a posted wakeless area. The term “above a wakeless speed” means operating a vessel at such a speed as to create a wake. No person shall operate any vessel in such a manner as to create a wake when such waters or parts thereof are posted by signs or marked by buoys prohibiting a wake.

2. Persons operating vessels which pass within one hundred fifty feet of any swimming area, moored vessel, person on shore engaged in fishing, or person in a vessel engaged in servicing buoys or markings shall reduce the speed of the vessels in order to prevent the wash or wake of the vessel from causing damage or inconvenience.

3. No person shall operate a motorboat with any person riding or sitting on either the starboard or port gunwales thereof, or on the decking over the bow, or in any other unsafe position, except when the boat is being moored or anchored.

4. No person shall operate or offer for rent any vessel which is overloaded, or unseaworthy, taking into consideration rated capacities, weather, type of construction, and other existing conditions.

5. No person shall operate or anchor a vessel within one hundred fifty feet of any person on shore engaged in fishing, except where narrow passages or coves make such operation restrictions impractical.

6. No person shall operate a Class A or Class 1 motorized vessel above a wakeless speed without wearing/using an Engine Cut-Off Switch (ECOS) that the vessel was manufactured with or has installed.

    a. Exemptions:

        i. The vessel’s main helm is installed within an enclosed cabin.

        ii. The vessel/engine was not manufactured with an ECOS in accordance with ABYC standards prior to 2019.

Basis and Purpose:

Updating fire extinguisher and engine cut off switch requirements to match federal requirements

In 2021, the United States Coast Guard revised its Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) for fire extinguishers, establishing a 12-year expiration date from the date stamped on the bottom of handheld fire extinguishers. Additionally, they updated engine cut-off switch requirements, mandating their use on all recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length when operating on plane or above displacement speed. As the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) receives grant funding from the US Coast Guard, it must align its regulations with these CFRs to maintain maximum funding eligibility. These regulatory changes aim to protect the boating public from vessel fires by ensuring the operability of required fire extinguishers and prevent accidents involving incapacitated operators by automatically cutting engine power using engine cut-off switches.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager by emailing dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Parks Act, §§ 33-10-101 to 33-33-113, C.R.S., and specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-10-106, and §§ 33-13-106(4) C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 21ST DAY OF AUGUST 2025.

APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair

ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary