

## DOCKING SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Docking safety is of utmost importance at Newport. With that in mind, here are some best practices, that if followed, will help reduce stress and improve docking safety.

- Always keep docks and decks clear of debris and any potential tripping hazards.
- Never approach a docking situation without a plan.
- Ensure that your crew is aware of the plan and their specific responsibilities.
- Determine the wind direction and which way it will push your boat.
- Always wear a life jacket, particularly when docking.
- Deploy fenders ahead of time and make sure mooring lines are positioned for your approach.
- Never jump from boat to dock or dock to boat. Only step off when the boat has been stopped alongside and preferably secured. On sailing boats lines should be led to the shrouds allowing crew to step ashore from the shrouds using them for support if required.
- Pass your ropes to someone standing on the dock rather than throwing them. This can cause them to lose their balance and fall into the water or on to another boat.
- Ask for dockside assistance when possible. If you feel help is needed, call ahead for the Harbormaster to meet you at the dock.
- Approach the dock slowly enough to maintain steerage under prevailing conditions of wind and weather and allow for an easy stop if something is going wrong.
- If someone falls overboard disengage your drive immediately to stop propellers from turning. Steer away from the person in the water if possible, depending on available space.
- When boarding a dinghy or small boat it is best to have it secured, bow and stern, to a dock or swim platform.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of dockside and onboard life rings, throw lines, poles, etc.

I hope you find these tips helpful.

Les Rozander  
Director – Onwater Activities  
Onwater@newportyachtclub.ca