

Get your California Boater Card now

Coming (Not Very) Soon

Mandatory Boater Safety Education



The state of California is slowly phasing in a new mandatory boater safety education law for boaters who operate a boat with a motor on it, on waterways in California. People who operate motor boats in California waters will soon need to carry a California Boater Card.

All boats in the Spinnaker Sailing fleet have engines. This means operators will eventually need the new Boater Safety Card.

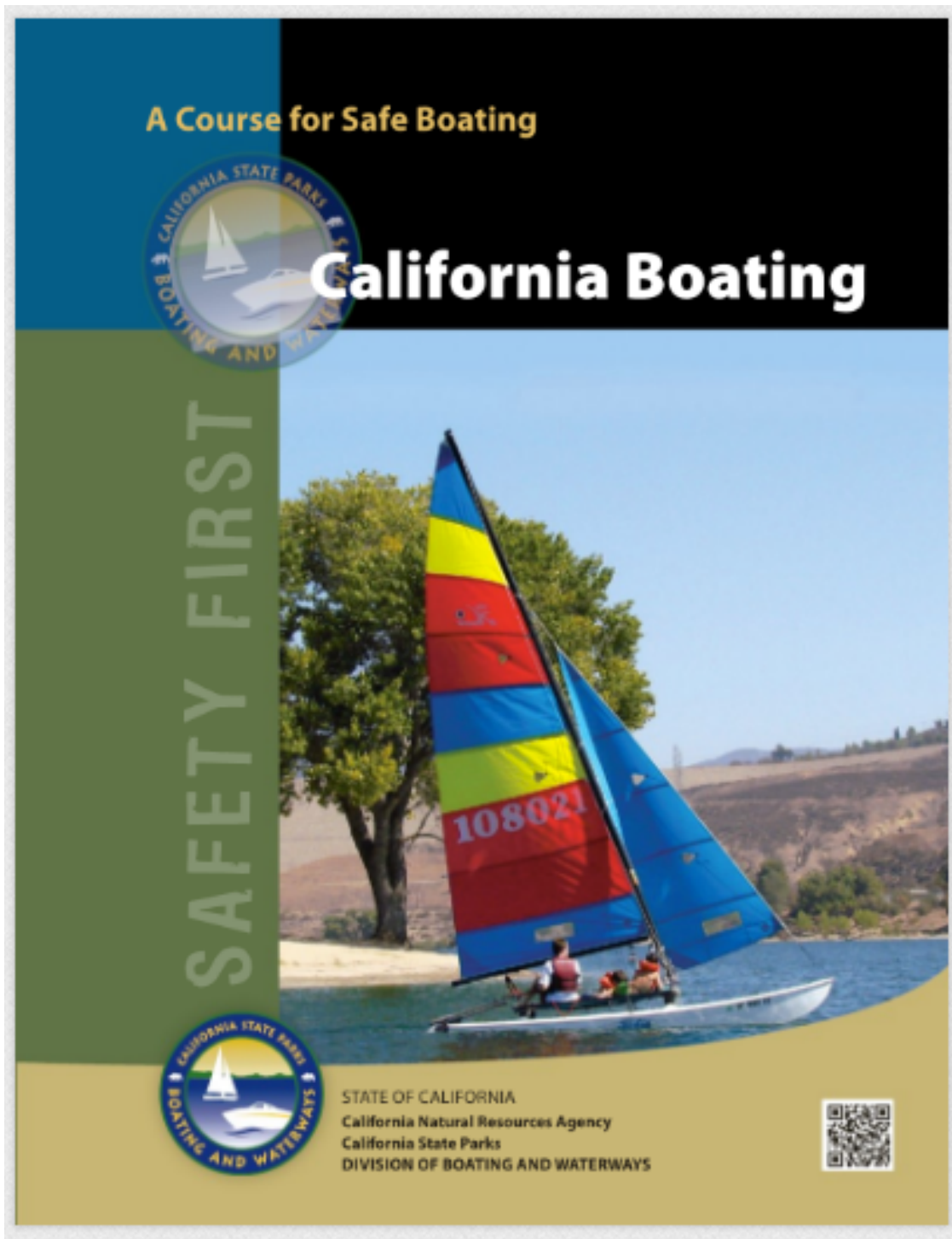
The requirement is being phased in gradually, over the next 8 years.

- January 1, 2018 – Persons 20 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2019 – Persons 25 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2020 – Persons 35 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2021 – Persons 40 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2022 – Persons 45 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2023 – Persons 50 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2024 – Persons 60 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2025 – All persons regardless of age
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While some people will not be required to carry the California Boater Card for some time, it would be in your interest to get one. It is proof that that you have studied and passed a safety exam, and know a lot about boating safety.

To get a California Boater Card:

1. Take a state approved boater safety course. You can do this for free
2. Take the exam and send it to DBW. Pass the exam. You will receive written notice from DBW that you have passed (or not)
3. Submit proof of passing the exam to DBW
4. Receive the card in the mail



There are many California state approved boater safety courses to choose from; too many and it gets confusing.

The best, and free, state approved boater safety course is the free self-study course book available from DBW. It is titled "A Course in Safe Boating". You can get a free copy of this book from DBW, and the office at Spinnaker Sailing has them available to members.

The exam booklet and answer sheet are in the back of the book. After studying the book you would take the exam and send the answer sheet to DBW. You will be notified of results within a few weeks.

You will receive a letter and certificate of completion from DBW. Then take a copy of the certificate, send it (back to) to DBW. You must include an Boater Card application form that can be downloaded from [CaliforniaBoaterCard.com](http://CaliforniaBoaterCard.com). If this sounds circuitous and redundant, it is:)

To order a free copy of "A Course for Safe Boating" from DBW click to the Department of Boating and Waterways web site. While at the DBW web site, take note of all the other no-charge information resources that are available. There are maps, guides, and other useful information about recreational waterways all over the state. Click to:

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28827](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28827)

This web site changes often so your best bet may be to just click to the Department of Boating and Waterways home page at <http://dbw.ca.gov/> and then search for it

It is in your interest, and Spinnaker Sailing's interest, that you study for this exam and pass it, even if your required date is well in the future. Passing this exam proves you understand and appreciate boater safety and have a deeper understanding of how to be a safe boater. The free study material from DBW have interesting information that is useful to know about boating and safety.

If you have questions or need more information about this please call or send email to Spinnaker Sailing