

Mandatory Safety Training for Rental Boat Use

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has a new regulation that requires rental boat operators, like CSA, to document that operators of rental boats have taken a boater safety course. This applies to all CSA members and non members who wish to use our rental boats. The regulation can be found here; <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/boating/Documents/Boat%20Rental%20Services.pdf>

That regulation states that all renters must be offered an approved course specific to the type of boat rented. IDNR offers an online course which can be found here; <https://www.rentalboatsafety.com/>

As soon as you go to the course page you will see that, contrary to the language of the regulation, there is no sailboat course. We have contacted IDNR about this and have been told that sailboat renters must take the powerboat segment. That includes watching brief videos and passing a test.

You will then be given a confirmation which shows you have passed the course. **WE WILL NOT RENT A BOAT TO ANYONE WHO CANNOT PROVIDE THAT CONFIRMATION.** And, if you are stopped in a rental boat by IDNR water patrol, you must demonstrate that you have taken the course.

Our Harbormaster Bob Winston is required by the regulation, as our rental agent, to do the following:

“maintain records of persons renting a watercraft for a period of at least one year. Such records shall contain proof of boat safety education card, or if taking the abbreviated safety instruction a minimum of the renter’s name, date of birth, driver’s license number, and signature (violations of this section is class B misdemeanor)”

You may also comply if you have an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate (card). <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety/Pages/BoatingSafety.aspx>

Safe boating.

