Marine Law Enforcement Training Opportunities

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation State Boating Program

The purpose of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's Boating Program is to educate the public in safe boating practices, ethics and legal requirements in order to prevent fatalities and damage relating to recreational boating accidents and to provide the necessary training for sheriff marine deputies to enforce Idaho boating laws.

Marine Law Enforcement Academy

The eight-day Idaho Marine Law Enforcement Academy is for officers that have been assigned to county marine law enforcement patrols and have little or no experience with the marine law enforcement environment. This course is certified by Idaho POST (80 hours credit) and those students that successfully complete the course and other POST certification requirements will be able to obtain Level 1 reserve marine deputy certification.

The course includes the following components: Classroom training in basic marine law enforcement including duties of marine law enforcement officers, vessel carriage requirements, rules of the road, safety equipment, accident reporting, and theft & fraud.

- Wet lab with specialized instruction in seated field sobriety testing.
- Interactive pool session.
- Officer survival exercises.
- Three days of on-the water activities including basic and advanced vessel operations, trailer maneuvers, towing, and real-life on-the-water scenarios.

Students that wish to participate in the academy must be currently employed by a law enforcement agency. The training involves swimming, cold-water immersion and other physical activity which may be characterized as strenuous. Students should be physically fit and be prepared for long days of various activities. Students should have medical clearance if health conditions warrant.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of "Boat Idaho, A Course on Responsible Boating". Proof of completion required.

Co-requisite: NIMS and ICS training per your agency's policy.

Required equipment: Uniform, duty belt, casual clothing, foul weather gear, inflatable personal floatation device (or personal floatation device used by your agency) and swimsuit.

Marine Tactical Advantage (MTAC)

The three-day Marine Tactical Advantage Course is designed for experienced marine law enforcement professionals to help aid in dealing with officer survival situations in marine environments.

The curriculum covers a wide variety of marine law enforcement issues including:

- Handcuffing and arrest techniques applicable to the marine environment
- Defensive tactics in a patrol vessel as well as in the water
- Cold water immersion
- On-the-water scenario-based training using simunition firearms

In addition to the on-the-water scenario training, students will participate in a half-day classroom session and pool session over the three days. This course is certified by Idaho POST (30 hours credit). Students that wish to participate in this course must be currently employed by a law enforcement agency. The training involves swimming and other physical activity which may be characterized as strenuous.

Students should be physically fit and be prepared for long days of various activities. Students should have medical clearance if health conditions warrant.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of "Boat Idaho, A Course on Responsible Boating". Proof of completion required.

Co-requisite: NIMS and ICS training per your agency's policy.

Required equipment: Uniform, duty belt, casual clothing, foul weather gear, inflatable personal floatation device (or personal floatation device used by your agency), eye/ear protection, and swimsuit.

Marine Officer River Navigation & Techniques

This is a three-day course intended for experienced boat operators. The primary objective of this course is to expose marine law enforcement officers to a variety of moving water-related issues that they are likely to encounter while conducting marine patrols, or assisting with search and rescue related operations on the many rivers in Idaho.

Once the students have completed the course they should have a better understanding of the many hazards that exist while conducting these necessary missions.

They should also have a better understanding on how to read, navigate, and manage these hazards.

This course is certified by Idaho POST (30 hours credit). The location and time of the year varies for this course due to changing water conditions needed for the course. The course includes a half-day classroom session. Students that wish to participate in this course must be currently employed by a law enforcement agency.

The training involves swimming, cold-water immersion and other physical activity which may be characterized as strenuous. Students should be physically fit and be prepared for long days of various activities. Students should have medical clearance if health conditions warrant.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of "Boat Idaho, A Course on Responsible Boating". Proof of completion required. Minimum 100 hours of patrol boat operation.

Co-requisite: NIMS and ICS training per your agency's policy.

Required equipment: Appropriate cold water gear is required (dry suit or wet suit, gloves and boots). A limited number of dry suits are available for loan. Call for availability. In addition, students need to bring a USCG approved Type V Whitewater Personal Flotation Device.

Personal Water-craft Search and Rescue (PWC/SAR)

This is a three-day skills based course. Training consists of one half-day of classroom instruction followed by half-day of flat-water PWC operations. The next two days are spent on the Clearwater River practicing SAR maneuvers in a variety of water conditions.

Students are trained in one, two and three man rescues with and without rescue sleds. PWC's and helmets are provided. This course is certified by Idaho POST (30 hours credit).
Students that wish to participate in this course must be currently employed by a law enforcement agency. The training involves swimming and other physical activity which may be characterized as strenuous. Students should be physically fit and be prepared for long days of various activities. Students should have medical clearance if health conditions warrant.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of "Boat Idaho, A Course on Responsible Boating". Proof of completion required.

Required equipment: Appropriate cold water gear is required (dry suit or wet suit, gloves and boots). A limited number of dry suits are available for loan. Call for availability. In addition, students need to bring a USCG Approved Type V Whitewater Personal Flotation Device.

Co-requisite: NIMS and ICS training per your agency's policy.

Basic Water Safety and Rescue (Cold Water Immersion)

This is a half-day course to help first responders, law enforcement officers, and other interested parties understand the dangers associated with cold water and moving water.

The course consists of a two-hour portion of classroom instruction which covers topics like safety equipment, rescue vs. recovery, and hazards. In addition, students view safety videos that detail cold water immersion in great depth.

The remaining two hours are spent doing two practical exercises including the proper use of throw bags and participating in an actual cold water immersion (typically in water with temperatures from 40-50 degrees). This course is certified by Idaho POST (four hours credit).

Students that wish to participate in this course must be currently employed by a law enforcement agency or other governmental entity. The training involves a cold water immersion and other activities which may be considered strenuous. Students should be physically fit and have medical clearance if health conditions warrant.

Required equipment: Swimsuit (or other attire) and change of clothes.

Marine Basic Operation Skills (Boat Handling Skills)

This is a three-day course for marine law enforcement offices that need to develop skills related to boat handling and operation. This course is certified by Idaho POST (24 hours credit).

Prerequisites: Successful completion of "Boat Idaho, A Course on Responsible Boating". Proof of completion required.

Co-requisite: NIMS and ICS training per your agency's policy.

Required equipment: Foul weather gear and inflatable personal floatation device (or personal floatation device used by your agency).

Boat Idaho Instructor Workshop

This two-day course (total of 12 hours) will enable those who pass to teach Boat Idaho, the official state boat safety education course.

The course is open to all law enforcement officers who have the desire to teach this safety course. Regional classes are scheduled on an as needed basis.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of "Boat Idaho, A Course on Responsible Boating". Proof of completion required.

Motorboat Muffler Enforcement

This one-day training session will aid marine law enforcement officers in using sound meters for compliance of state statute (67-7038).

This training is scheduled upon request and your agency must provide a calibrated sound meter.