

	<p>Scouts Australia NSW  <b>LEADER NEWS - ON THE WEB</b>          Members Support &amp; Child Protection Team  <b>September 2010</b></p>	<p>PO Box 125          Lidcombe          Phone: 97359000          Fx: 97359001</p>
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## **PROPELLER GUARDS ON SCOUT BOATS/CRAFT**

### **All scout boats/craft equipped with propellers must have child safe propeller guards fitted.**

In the case of private boats/craft used by Scouts that are not fitted with the appropriate child safe propeller guards it is the Leader in Charge who has a responsibility to remind the Skipper' of the boat/craft, and those using the boats, that the maritime rules are to be strictly observed. Not restricted just to the Maritime regulations restricting the sitting on the boats gunwales and entering the vessel via the transom.

There have been countless accidents and fatalities caused by people by contact with propellers. This has included Scout members.

There are a number of types of 'prop guards'. Some are designed to protect the propeller there are others designed to protect swimmers.

Scouts consider "child safe propeller guards' are those where the protective cage is designed to prevent a young person's hands coming in contact with the propeller from the side or back. The force of the water coming from the front of the propeller will tend to push things away.

Existing propellers guards fitted to scout boats/craft prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 are automatically approved but, if not fully compliant, must be upgraded when that motor is replaced.

See the pictures of one currently approved for use.



Remember that with some motors, even when in neutral, the propeller is still turning, slowly but dangerously.

If you intend to fit a guard that is not approved as a 'child protection guard' or is dissimilar to the diagrams above we suggest you contact your Regional Commissioner (Activities) who can provide guidance and/or approvals from the State Commissioner Activities.

**AVOID THE RISK OF APPEARING IN COURT CHARGED WITH NEGLIGENCE  
ENSURE YOU FIT THE APPROPRIATE GUARD  
AND/OR  
ADVISE SKIPPERS OF PRIVATE VESSELS  
OF THEIR MARITIME RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MASTER IN CHARGE.**