

# Florence Energy News

## RULES OF THE ROAD FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

Lauderdale County is blessed with three beautiful lakes on the southern border; Wheeler Lake on the east, Pickwick Lake on the west, and Wilson Lake in the middle. To enjoy the lakes safely, boaters must follow the rules listed below except in situations where deviating from these rules is necessary to avoid a collision.

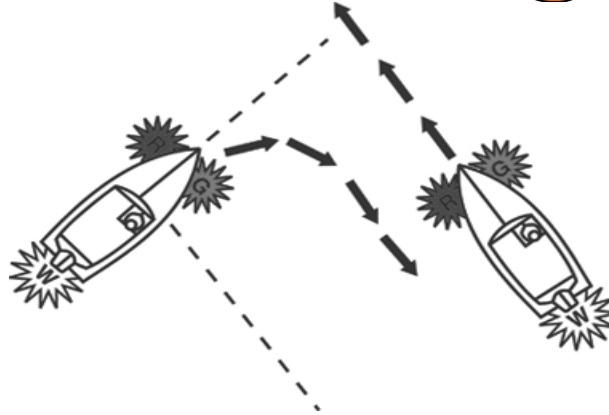
### RIGHT-OF-WAY

Vessels that have the right-of-way, in order of priority, are:

- Vessels being overtaken
- Commercial tows and other vessels restricted in maneuverability
- Sailing or non-powered vessels
- Power-driven vessels not restricted in maneuverability
- Seaplanes

### MEETING SITUATIONS

Vessels should generally meet and pass port to port. (*Port* is the *left side* of the boat when facing forward.)



At least one of the vessels should signal its intentions (see above).

The vessel with the right-of-way must maintain its course and speed until the other vessel is clear.

### OVERTAKING SITUATIONS

The vessel being overtaken has the right-of-way.

The vessel being overtaken must hold its course and speed.

Passing vessels should signal their intentions (see above).

The vessel with the right-of-way must maintain its course and speed until the other vessel is clear.

### CROSSING SITUATIONS

Generally, the boat approaching from your right has the right-of-way. Keep in mind, however, that vessels restricted in maneuverability have the right-of-way over sailing vessels, and sailing vessels have the right-of-way over power vessels that are not restricted in maneuverability.

### SIGNALING YOUR INTENTIONS

One whistle blast: “Pass port to port.”

Two whistle blasts: “Pass starboard to starboard.” (*Starboard* is the *right side* of the boat when facing forward.)

Three whistle blasts: “My engines are in reverse.”

Five or more rapid whistle blasts: “Danger!” or “I do not understand your intention or maneuver.”

*Excerpted from “Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers: A boater’s guide to safe travel,” produced by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, and TVA.*

## ATTENTION

FLORENCE UTILITIES WILL BE  
CLOSED THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY

MAY 26

MEMORIAL DAY

# Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

The City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department has put together a series of three articles about sewer lines. The second article, *Sewer Backflow Valve: What is it?* appears in this issue. This article includes information about the benefits of a sewer backflow valve and how it works.

Lauderdale County is blessed with three beautiful lakes on the southern border; Wheeler Lake on the east, Pickwick Lake on the west, and Wilson Lake in the middle. To enjoy the lakes safely, boaters must comply with navigation rules. Read more about safe vessel conduct inside this publication.

Please look over tips about paying your utility bill by mail or by after-hours depository. If you would like additional information about our payment methods or other services that Florence Utilities provides, please contact our Customer Service Department at 760-6512.

[www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com)

## SEWER BACKFLOW VALVE What is it?

Have you occasionally experienced a sewer backup during or following a heavy rain? Is your home or business located in a low area subject to occasional flooding? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, you may need to install a sewer backflow valve on your sewer line.

A sewer backflow valve is a device that can be installed by a plumber on the homeowner's or business's private sewer service line at some point between the building and the City's main line. The purpose of the device is to allow sewage to pass through during normal operation, but if the City's main sewer service line backups during a heavy rain, the device will close, preventing costly damage to your home or business. Here is how it works.

If you have experienced backups before or are concerned that it may be a problem for you in the future, please contact the Gas & Water/Wastewater Department for a no-charge evaluation. You may contact our office at **760-6637**, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm. After hours, holidays, and weekends, please call **764-4456**.

NEXT MONTH: *SEWER SERVICE LINE  
What Is My Responsibility?*

### UTILITY BILL PAYING Mail and After-Hours Depository

Your utility bill is due and payable upon receipt. The last day which the bill may be paid without a penalty is shown as the DUE DATE.

If paying by mail, it will be accepted without penalty if the envelope bears a U.S. Postal Service postmark which has been stamped before or on the DUE DATE.



An after-hours depository is available at the side entrance to City Hall on Short Court Street. When using the depository, please pay only by check or money order and always include your bill stub. Any payments received before 8 am will be counted for the previous day. Any payments received at 8 am or after will be counted for that day.

For additional information, please contact our Customer Service Department at **760-6512**.

TYPICAL INSTALLATION OF AN EXTERIOR BACKFLOW VALVE

