



The Travelers Companies, Inc.  
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## NEWS RELEASE

# Travelers Offers New Boat Insurance Discount for Wireless Lanyard Safety Device

*New boat and yacht insurance discount encourages safer boating*

HARTFORD, Conn., August 18, 2009 – To help encourage safe boating, Travelers, a leading provider of boat and yacht insurance, today announced a new discount\* on boat and yacht insurance premiums for boaters that use the Autotether wireless emergency stop lanyard. These devices are designed to reduce the chances of a runaway boat by turning off the motor should the boat's operator go overboard.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, falls overboard are consistently a leading cause of boating fatalities, thousands of dollars of property damage and injuries to innocent victims each year. Incidents where the operator falls overboard and the boat is left without anyone to steer can be easily avoided when the proper safety devices are used by the vessel's operator.

"Encouraging safe boating is a top priority at Travelers as falls overboard place everyone in the water at risk," said Chantal Cyr, vice president of the Boat and Yacht Division at Travelers. "We expect that offering a boat and yacht insurance premium discount will encourage powerboat owners to consider using a wireless emergency stop lanyard to make boating safer for everyone on the water."

Wearing an emergency stop lanyard is required by law in only six states - Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Nevada and New Jersey. According to Autotether, a leading producer of a wireless emergency stop device, most operators surveyed do not wear the emergency stop lanyard and admitted to leaving the helm at one time or another when the vessel is under way. The main reason boaters cite for not wearing it is that the lanyard is restrictive and inconvenient around the helm as it is typically connected to the operator from the boat's ignition.

"We've found that boaters do not want to be restricted to the helm and most emergency stop lanyards are inconvenient," said Anthony Viggiano, president of Autotether. "The wireless device frees the boat operator while giving them and their crew the peace of mind in knowing the boat will stop if the operator goes overboard or an alarm will sound if a passenger accidentally slips out."

Travelers is currently reviewing safety devices made by other manufacturers in the hopes of offering this discount in the future to boaters who own them.

“Properly using an emergency stop lanyard and all of the proper boating safety devices could easily be linked to saving lives,” said Cyr.

### **About Travelers**

The Travelers Companies, Inc. is a leading property casualty insurer selling primarily through independent agents and brokers. Travelers understands that life and business are inherently dynamic and that the best way to serve customers is to deliver insurance in-synch with evolving risks. The company’s diverse business lines offer its global customers a wide range of coverage in the [auto](#), [home](#) and [business](#) settings. A Fortune 100 company, Travelers has 33,000 employees and 2008 revenues of approximately \$24 billion. Travelers stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: [TRV](#)) and is a component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. For more information on being in-synch, visit [www.travelers.com](http://www.travelers.com).

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*\*A discount of up to 2.5% applies only to certain coverages and is currently available for approved wireless lanyard devices. The discount may not be available in all states and is subject to individual eligibility.*