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News Release

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National Safe Boating Week Kicks Off New Mexico's Recreational Boating Season

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department encourages New Mexicans to practice safe boating as they prepare to enjoy the warm weather and the state's lakes, rivers, and streams this summer. National Safe Boating Week, May 19-25th, provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of safety precautions and sensible behavior when spending time on the water.

The goal of National Safe Boating Week is to educate and inform the boating public about the need to follow safe boating practices and wearing your lifejacket. It doesn't matter if you're only going out for a short boat ride, fishing for an afternoon, or paddling with friends - safety should always be foremost on your mind.

National Safe Boating Week in New Mexico parallels efforts throughout the United States, focusing on drawing attention to the number of people who die each year in boating-related accidents. In support of National Safe Boating Week, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2-4 will have a Vessel Safety Check Station at Cabela's in Albuquerque on May 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"Remember to be safe while you're boating this Memorial Day and throughout the summer – wear your lifejacket, be prepared, and don't operate a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol," said Chris Bolen, Boating Safety, Education, and Enforcement Program Coordinator for the New Mexico State Parks Division. "We want everyone to be safe as they enjoy their New Mexico adventures on the water this summer."

This year during National Safe Boating Week, and throughout the boating season, practice these simple steps that can save your life as well as the lives of the people boating with or around you.

- Wear a lifejacket, the life it saves may be your own!
- Designate a sober boat operator!
- Be prepared for changing wind and weather!
- File a float plan and always tell someone where you will be boating!
- Get a **FREE** vessel safety check; make sure your boat is ready for the water!
- Take a **FREE** boating safety course; make sure you're ready to take the helm!

The New Mexico State Parks Division offers FREE boating safety classes around the state and online throughout the year. State law requires that you wear a lifejacket when on a canoe, kayak, or raft and that all children 12 years old and younger wear a lifejacket while on the deck of a moving vessel. Experience YOUR next adventure at YOUR New Mexico State Parks.

For more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit nmparks.com.

Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!



The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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