

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

---

**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

**Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Tommy Mutz, Division Director**  
State Parks Division



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 13, 2013**

Contact: Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)

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

SANTA FE, NM – As New Mexicans prepare to enjoy the warm weather, they look to the Land of Enchantment's expansive outdoors and waterways for relaxation and recreation. New Mexico's lakes, rivers, and streams are enjoyable, but can sometimes pose dangers. National Safe Boating Week 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.

"Tragically, many boating accidents are the result of operator error, an error that is too often caused by fatigue, recklessness, inclement weather, or intoxication from alcohol or drugs that cause serious injuries, and claim lives of innocent people," said Toby Velasquez, Chief of Law Enforcement and Boating Safety for the New Mexico State Parks Division. "The simple act of wearing a lifejacket could mean the difference between life and death during a boating accident. If we can prevent one fatality by reminding the public to wear a lifejacket, we have accomplished our goal."

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.

- Get a vessel safety check
- File a float plan
- Designate a sober operator
- Wear a lifejacket

- Be aware of weather
- Take a **FREE** boating safety course

Celebrate and enjoy YOUR state parks, for more information, please call 888-NMPARKS or visit [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).

###

*Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home  
The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection  
and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Phone (505) 476-3355 • Fax (505) 476-3361 • [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com)