

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Spring Means Boating Fun AND Boating Safety at Your New Mexico State Parks

Spring has sprung, the sun is shining and the weather is warm in New Mexico! It's the perfect time to head out to a New Mexico State Park to fish, boat, sail or paddle and enjoy the glorious outdoors. We want you to have a memorable and SAFE day on the water. So this spring, there are two factors to keep in mind when you head to the lake or river.

### Weather

Spring winds in New Mexico have a big impact on boating. Those high spring winds we're all familiar with can easily capsize your boat or watercraft. Be SURE to check the weather for your day out on the water, or you may end up spending more time than you planned IN the water.

State Parks officials recommend you check websites such as [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) prior to your trip to a New Mexico lake. Weather websites' seven day forecasts are an invaluable tool for boaters. Many have a wind speed option that gives you real time, hour-by-hour projected wind speeds, gusts and wind direction. Boaters can plan accordingly when wind gusts are projected and conditions may not be safe for boating! Boat safe, don't lose your boat to the elements and always check the weather.

### Water Temperature

Our land and air temperatures are rising but the water is not keeping pace. Taking a plunge into 45 degree water is a truly shocking experience. Cold water immersion can cause serious injury or death due to hypothermia.

"New Mexico's beautiful State Park lakes see a surge of boating in the spring," said Toby Velasquez, State Park Deputy Director. "We encourage everyone to come and enjoy outdoor water recreation this time of year. But visitors must know that lake and river water often comes from

northern rivers and streams and can be extremely cold. At this time of year, it is more important than ever to take proper precautions to minimize the chances of going into the water - and to be prepared for immersion if you do," he said.

Sudden immersion in cold water results in a "gasp" reflex to a person overboard. Given this involuntary response, a person has a much better chance of survival when wearing a life jacket. State Park officials recommend you watch a video to learn steps to take if you fall into cold water. Check it out on YouTube: ["Cold Water Boot Camp USA: 1-10-1."](#)

State Parks Boating Safety reminds all boaters that every vessel must have a properly fitting life jacket that is in good condition for every person aboard. Children under 12 must be wearing a life jacket at all times while underway, unless the child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin. Also, on any type of paddle craft on any New Mexico waters, a life jacket must be worn at all times.

Learn about safe boating by taking one of our FREE state approved boating courses in class or online. New Mexico law requires proof of education for vessel operators born on or after January 1, 1989. Remember to check your vessel registration to ensure that it is current before you go out on the water. Visit us at [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com) or call 1-888-NMPARKS.

***Wear Your Lifejacket; Boat Safe and Boat Smart in New Mexico!***

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*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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