

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.**  
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**Tommy Mutz, Division Director**  
State Parks Division



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us

### **National 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 challenges. 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, 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, Deputy Director 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.

- 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!

New Mexico has 35 diverse state parks to explore and find adventures, including many lakes, rivers, and streams-you'll find great boating opportunities at YOUR New Mexico State Parks. For more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit [nmparks.com](http://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.*

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)