

# Neighborhood Safety Newsletter



**PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY - PARTNERSHIPS - PROFESSIONALISM - PREVENTION & INTERVENTION OWNERSHIP**

The Sacramento Police Department wishes you a safe and fun summer as you beat the heat on our beautiful waterways. Consider the following safety tips (courtesy of California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways - <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/>):

**Do a thorough equipment check prior to boating:**

√ Vessel in good condition	√ Tools
√ Vessel properly loaded	√ Extra starting battery
√ Ample supply of fuel	√ Life jackets/throwable devices (Coast Guard-approved)
√ Check weather reports	
√ Marine VHF radio	√ Fire extinguishers (Coast Guard-approved)
√ Compass and charts	√ Visual distress signals
√ Bailing device	√ Oars or paddles
√ Spare parts	√ Good anchoring equipment
√ First-aid kit	√ Flashlight

**Check weather reports before heading out:**

Before getting underway, check the latest local conditions such as weather, currents, rapids, flow levels, and hazards, including low-head dams. The latest coastal conditions and wave forecasts can be found on the DBW website.

**Life Jackets:**

*For a boat less than 16 feet long, or canoe or kayak of any length:*

- Everyone on board a personal watercraft (popularly known as “jet skis”) and anyone being towed behind a vessel must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- A Coast Guard-approved life jacket must be carried for each person on board. If stored, these life jackets must be easy to get to, and you must show passengers the location of life jackets and other safety equipment.
- Anyone using an underwater maneuvering device is exempt from wearing a life jacket. An underwater maneuvering device is any towed or self-powered device designed for underwater use that a person can pilot through diving, turning and surfacing moves.

*For a boat 16 feet or longer:*

- The same requirements as above and one immediately accessible (easy-to-reach) Type IV device designed for throwing – such as a ring, cushion or horseshoe buoy for each boat.

**Wearing a life jacket:**

- Check the manufacturer’s ratings for your size and weight.
- Make sure the jacket is properly zipped or buckled.
- Raise your arms straight up over your head while wearing your life jacket and ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings, gently pulling up.
- If there is excess room above the openings and the jacket rides up over your chin or face, it does NOT fit properly. A snug fit in these areas signals a properly fitting life jacket. It is extremely important you choose a properly fitting life jacket.

**Boating under the influence (BUI):**

If your boating plans include drinking, make sure you have designated a sober driver before you head out for the day.

**For safety onboard remember to:**

- Distribute weight onboard evenly
- Fasten gear to prevent shifting
- Keep passengers seated
- Don’t overload your boat

**Holiday Weekends:**

Nearly 14% of all accidents each year occur during the three summer holiday weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Waterways are crowded; people are boating in groups or with many people aboard their vessels. Because of this,

- Designate a person aboard the vessel to help you act as a lookout. Familiarize any new boat riders with the location of the safety equipment and how to be safe aboard your boat. (Keep hands inside near dock, be aware of carbon monoxide, and propeller safety, etc.) Everyone wear a life jacket!

See our [Boating Safety Video](#) and be safe out there! Help us in “Making Sacramento the Safest Big City in California.”

