



Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

Community Relations ~ Public Education Branch

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www.citvoftulsa.org/PublicSafety/Fire/



Wear Life Jackets Near Open Water

www.usa.safekids.org



Every year, more than a dozen children in the United States drown in reported boating accidents, and more than 160 are injured in reported accidents involving personal watercraft. Most children who drown are not wearing life jackets, and an estimated 85 percent of boating-related drownings could have been prevented by life jackets.

May 19-25 is National Safe Boating Week, and Safe Kids Worldwide reminds parents: On a boat, everyone should wear a personal flotation device — a life jacket — at all times. Look for a PFD approved by the U.S. Coast Guard; "water wings" and other inflatable swimming aids do not prevent drowning.

Children ages 14 and under should wear life jackets not only on boats, but near open bodies of water or when participating in water sports. In many states, and in waters under Coast Guard jurisdiction, it's the law.

Safe Kids Worldwide also urges parents and caregivers to wear life jackets on boats or other watercraft. According to a 2005 study by Safe Kids Worldwide, children are much more likely to practice safe habits when they witness similar behavior by parents and caregivers.

Safe Kids Worldwide also reminds parents and caregivers:

Enroll your 4-year-old in swimming lessons taught by a certified instructor, but don't assume swimming lessons or life jackets make your child "drownproof." These precautions are important, but they're no substitute for constant adult supervision.

Don't let kids operate personal watercraft (such as jet skis).

Nobody should swim near a dock or marina with electrical hookups or lighting — swimmers can be electrocuted in the water and drown.

Make sure the skipper or pilot of the boat your child is on has passed a boating safety course approved by the Coast Guard. For more information about safe boat operations, visit www.uscgboating.org

Install a carbon monoxide detector on your motorboat to alert you to dangerous levels of exhaust fumes.

Never drink alcoholic beverages while boating.

Learn infant and child CPR. In less than two hours, you can learn effective interventions that can give a fighting chance to a child who has fallen into water and become unconscious. Local hospitals, fire departments and recreation departments offer CPR training.

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