

Remember, life jackets save lives. A boating incident July 2 resulted in two children being thrown from the tube they were riding. Both were wearing life jackets and neither was seriously hurt.

Many boaters will be out on the water during the summer. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission offers the following safety tips on the water:

- **Wear a Life Jacket** – Children under age 13, and anyone on a personal watercraft, and anyone being towed by a boat on skis, a tube, or other similar device are required by law to wear a United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.
- **Avoid Alcohol** – Boating Under the Influence (BUI) is a criminal violation and is enforced actively in Nebraska. Boat operators may become impaired more quickly due to heat and dehydration. Operation Dry Water is a national BUI awareness and enforcement campaign that will continue throughout the weekend.
- **Have Required Safety Equipment** – Boaters must be prepared for any emergency on the water. Life jackets, throw cushions, fire extinguishers and bailing devices are required on most boats. For requirements, go to the 2013 Boating Guide at [BoatSafeNebraska.org](http://BoatSafeNebraska.org).
- **Be Aware of Surroundings** – Boat and personal watercraft operators must be on the constant lookout for other boats, personal watercraft, swimmers, stumps and hazards. Speeds in excess of 5 mph are prohibited within 30 yards of any other vessel, swimming area or dock.
- **Take a Boating Safety Course** – Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1985 operating a motorboat or personal watercraft in Nebraska, must have successfully completed the Nebraska boating safety course. Visit [BoatSafeNebraska.org](http://BoatSafeNebraska.org) for a list of classes.