



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
May 17, 2013

For more information contact:  
Julie G. Summs  
County Administrator  
(540) 672-3313

### ORANGE COUNTY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

*National Safe Boating Week Launches May 18 – 24, 2013, with a Reminder for Boaters that Life Jacket Wear is a Simple Life-Saving Strategy for Safe Recreational Boating*

Orange County, VA – As the weather starts to warm up, many residents are anxious to get outside, enjoy the sunshine, and partake in recreational activities on the water. Orange County calls the attention of its residents to the importance of taking safety precautions during recreational water activities.

According to the United States Coast Guard, in 2011, approximately 4,588 boating accidents were documented, which involved 758 deaths, 3,081 injuries, and roughly \$52 Million dollars of damage to property. 70% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 84% percent were not reported as wearing a life jacket. It is imperative that all recreational boaters wear life jackets at all times while on the water.

This year during [National Safe Boating Week](#), and throughout the boating season, the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is working with their partner organizations to encourage safe and responsible boating, including the practice of always wearing a life jacket, and being alert and aware while on the water. Safe boating and life jacket wear saves lives – so, for this year's National Safe Boating Week which is May 18–24, 2013, and throughout the boating season remember to "Wear It!"

"Accidents on the water can happen much too fast to reach and put on a stowed life jacket," said Virgil Chambers, Executive Director of the National Safe Boating Council. "It's important that everyone wears a life jacket while on the water."

A few boating safety tips for citizens to keep in mind this boating season, include:

1. No matter what activity you have planned – boating, fishing sailing, etc. – always remember to wear a life jacket every time you are on the water.
2. Make sure your life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard-approved and properly fits. Double check that your life jacket is appropriate for your favorite boating activities.
3. Life jackets meant for adults do not work for children. If you are boating with children, make sure they are wearing properly fitted, child-sized life jackets.

The National Safe Boating Council is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. The NSBC accomplishes this mission by promoting outreach and research initiatives that support boating education and safety awareness; improving the professional development of boating safety educators through training; and developing and recognizing outstanding boating safety programs. To learn more about the NSBC and its programs, please visit [www.SafeBoatingCouncil.org](http://www.SafeBoatingCouncil.org).

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