OUR SOLUTION: WEAR IT!

Life Jackets IN YOUR BOAT

Life jackets should be readily available should an emergency occur. If you wear your life jacket and the passengers in the boat wear theirs, chances are all will be safe should an emergency occur! Trying to put a life jacket on while in the water is extremely difficult. Try it sometime!

BOAT SMART FROM THE START

Make lake living fun.
Don't court disaster.
Mandate life jacket use in your boat and around the water.
You'll be glad you did.
Life jackets save lives! **WEAR THEM**

...IT JUST MAKES SENSE

THE BOATING SAFETY SEVEN

1. Wear your life jacket.
2. Take a boating safety class.
3. Carry all required safety gear.
4. Know your boat and its limitations.
5. Follow the boating "rules of the road."
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions.
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of other boaters.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Bedford County Sheriff: 1.540.586.7827
Boating Safety Watch: 1.800.237.5712
For Emergencies Dial: 911
VHF Marine Radio: Key Channel 16

LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

Safety Council Water SML

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE WATER SAFETY COUNCIL

WWW.SMLASSOCIATION.ORG

TYPE 1

AUTO INFLATABLE

TYPE II

MANUAL INFLATABLE

TYPE III

BELT PACK INFLATABLE

TYPE IV

FAQ'S

HOW MANY LIFE JACKETS DO I NEED ON MY BOAT?

Federal law requires recreational boaters to carry one U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket (Type I, II, III, or V) of the correct size and in good condition for each person aboard. The "U.S. Coast Guard-approved" label must be clearly visible on the jacket. Federal law states any boat 16 feet and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must also carry one throwable Type IV flotation cushion.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

Because their body weight is distributed differently, children are more likely to float face down in the water. Life jacket laws for children vary by state and water body. For those areas without a specific law, federal law requires that children under 13 years of age must wear a properly fitting life jacket. Visit our website for your state's specific life jacket requirements.

INFLATABLE LIFE JACKETS:
REQUIRE MORE FREQUENT MAINTENANCE THAN INHERENTLY BOUYANT LIFE JACKETS.

⇒ Check the status of the inflator to be certain the cartridge is properly installed.

⇒ Every two months, inflate the life jacket orally and leave it overnight to check for leaks.

⇒ Immediately replace a spent CO_2 cartridge with a new one and repack the jacket following the directions.

⇒ Frequent users of inflatables should check them often, especially if used around sharp equipment like fishing gear.

Inflatables are NOT recommended for individuals who cannot swim and are not for use where high speed water impact is expected, like water skiing or riding on a personal watercraft.

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT JACKET?

The Coast Guard classifies life jackets into five different types based on their minimum buoyancy, performance level and limitations. Each is designed for different boating activities and water conditions, so you may consider purchasing more than one jacket to accommodate different activities.
Most importantly: purchase a jacket that you will wear!

AROUND THE DOCK AND SHORELINE

Accidents and drownings can happen around the dock. Children especially under 16 should always be required to wear a Life Jacket when swimming and enjoying activities around the shoreline.

Parents and/or guardians should have a strict rule requiring youngsters to wear life jackets when going to the water front. Also, there should always be a ring buoy or throw cushion on the dock in the event a swimmer is in trouble. Tie a line to the throw ring. If you miss the mark, pull it in and try again.

DON'T JUMP IN TO TRY AND HELP.

THE VICTIM MAY BRING YOU DOWN WITH THEM.

REMEMBER "THROW - DON'T GO"

WEAR IT!