



Yolo County Sheriff's Office

140 Tony Diaz Drive, Woodland, CA 95776

(530) 668-5280

Fax (530) 668-5238

(916) 375-6443

E.G. Prieto
Sheriff ~ Coroner

Tom A. Lopez
Undersheriff

Administration
(530) 668-5280
Finance
Personnel
Planning & Research

Cameron Training Facility
(530) 668-5206
Commissary
Inmate Education
Inmate Programs
Inmate Training

Coroner's Section
(530) 668-5292

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(530) 668-5280
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Community Resources
Crime Prevention
Department Training
Investigations
Marine Patrol
Patrol
Search & Rescue
Aero Squadron
Cadets
Posse Reserves
STARS

Animal Services
(530) 668-5287

Leinberger Detention
(530) 668-5254
Corrections
Inmate Work Programs

Monroe Detention
(530) 668-5245
Corrections
Court Services
Foods Services
Records
Transportation

Press Release

Subject: Sheriff's Office Stresses the Importance of Wearing Life Jackets on Yolo Waterways

Contact: Mark Persons, Public Information, 530.406.5172

Date: July 22, 2013

The benefits of wearing a life jacket are obvious. When properly fitted and worn, life jackets can save lives. In fact, hundreds of lives a year could be saved in the United States if boaters and rafters and their passengers took proper precautions and wore properly fitted life jackets.

Nearly 85 percent of boating/rafting-related fatalities in the United States involve victims who were not wearing a life jacket, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Yolo County, CA Code of Ordinances read as such:

It shall be unlawful for any person to traverse the waters within the county on an inner tube, air mattress, or any other devise capable of transporting a person on the water without wearing correctly a Coast Guard approved wearable Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 personnel floatation devise; provided, however, the provisions of this section shall not apply if any State law or administrative regulation otherwise requires the carrying or exempts the carrying on board the vessel or devise in question of other personal floatation devises.

California boating law now requires:

- All children under age 13 must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- Those on jet skis and personal watercraft and anyone towed behind a vessel must wear a life jacket.
- For all rafts, kayaks and canoes, as well as boats less than 16 feet long, a life jacket for each person must be worn on board and easily accessible.

"Service Without Limitations"

- Boats over 16 feet long must have a life jacket for each passenger as well as a rescue floatation device made for throwing, such as a ring cushion.

To keep children safe follow these water safety tips:

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Make sure the life jacket is the correct size and does not ride up when the child's arms are raised overhead.
- Take swimming lessons taught by a certified instructor.
- Learn CPR in case of emergencies

California's lakes, rivers and the ocean are a great source of recreation and exercise, but they also present safety risks. By obeying life-jacket laws and being extra careful when children are near water, you can avoid accidents.