



GAME AND FISH NEWS

CORRECTION:

Please be advised the news release sent Monday, July 3, contained incorrect locations for the Lake Powell and Lake Havasu City life jacket exchange events. The correct information has been provided in this version.

For immediate release, July 5, 2017
Arizona Game and Fish Department

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Life jacket exchange events taking place Saturday, July 8

*Bring your old, worn and less-effective life jackets and
exchange them for a new one*



PHOENIX — Have an old, worn out life jacket? Swap it for a new one.

From 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 8, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is holding life jacket exchange events at four locations throughout the state:

- Lake Pleasant — 10-lane boat ramp
- Canyon Lake — main ramp
- Lake Powell — Antelope Point Marina
- Lake Havasu City — Site Six launch ramp

During the exchanges, people with old, worn and less-effective life jackets can swap them for a new life jacket, while supplies last.

It's important that boaters check to ensure that all of their life jackets are in good condition and that they are the right size and fit for passengers. On average in Arizona, life jackets should be replaced every five years.

"While state law requires that anyone 12 and under must wear a life jacket when out on the water, it's a good idea for all boat and watercraft users to wear one," said Josh Hoffman, Boating Safety Education coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "Wear it. Don't just store the life jacket on your boat to check the box."

New life jackets are much more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange style most boaters know. There are innovative options, such as inflatable life jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, paddling or hunting and are much cooler in the warmer weather.

The U.S. Coast Guard reported that in 2016 there were 4,463 recreational boating accidents, involving 701 deaths nationwide. In cases where the cause of death was known, 80 percent of fatal boating accident victims drowned and of those, 83 percent were not wearing a life jacket. In Arizona, there were five deaths from boating accidents last year.

"Wearing a life jacket could very well save your life," Hoffman said.

For more information on boating safety or to register for a hands-on or online safety course, visit www.azgfd.gov/boating and click "Boating Safety Education."

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