

Water Safety at West Marine Supported by the Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron

Nice weather over Labor Day weekend means many folks here in the east will be hitting the water. One local boating supply store wants to make sure people are prepared to have fun and stay safe out on the waves.



West Marine in Washington hosted a water safety seminar Saturday and talked about some of the top safety tips for boaters.

There have been 29 boating deaths in North Carolina this year, and 23 of those victims were not wearing life jackets, according to the North Carolina Wildlife Commission.

So before you step off the dock you will want to be sure to have enough life jackets for everyone on the boat. Plus you'll want other items like a whistle or a airhorn, flares and a first aid kit, West Marine said.

Boaters can also schedule a free boat safety check with the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron to make sure their vessel is equipped with everything it needs to sail safely.

"We emphasize the use of a life preserver," Former Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron Commandor Gene Alligood said. "Every boat should have life preservers on board and it's a good practice for each boater to wear a life preserver."

In addition to boat safety checks, the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron also offers routine boating courses. The next one is scheduled for Oct. 20.

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