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**LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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**CASE NUMBER:** N/A  
**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT:** N/A  
**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE:** 07/19/2010 at 11:00 hours  
**NATURE OF STORY:** Water Rescues / Water Safety  
**LOCATION:** Lane County Waterways

**DETAILS:** With temperatures in the 80's over the weekend there has been an increase in both water recreation and water-related incidents. The Lane County Sheriff's Marine Patrol, Search and Rescue, and Eugene and Springfield Fire Department Water Rescue units have been responding to a wide variety of calls for service. This is a good time to remind the public to recreate safely on County waterways.

Remember --- a significant amount of the communities' public safety resources are required to respond to water-related emergencies; many of which can largely be prevented with a little planning and proper equipment.

Calls for service included the following examples, also included are recommended preventative measures:

- Jets skis and boats running out of fuel at or near dark needing to be located after dark and towed into shore. *Make sure your watercraft is in good operating condition and keep an eye on fuel and oil levels.*
- Two separate groups of "tubers" have become stranded on the Coast Fork of the Willamette River due to underestimating the time it takes to float from their launch location to their take out location causing friends and family to call them in as overdue after dark. *Plan your trip so you arrive at your destination well before dark. We recommend you plan to be off the water 2 hours before sunset.*
- Construction work on the I-5 Bridge at the Willamette River has generated several rescues. This can be a very hazardous area for both boaters and rescue crews. Persons floating this area should be very familiar with the correct route and are strongly recommended to WEAR their PFD when going through this area. *Two recent rescues have occurred under the bridge. There is debris in some of the channels that watercraft can become entrapped in. One of the rafters did not have a PFD (life Jacket) with him and was cited by marine deputies.*

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## NEWS RELEASE



- Two Springfield women were rescued from the Willamette River near the Washington Jefferson Street Bridge on July 18 when they capsized their 4-person light duty inflatable raft. Neither woman had PFD's with them. *If you are in any floatation device that is defined as a watercraft, by State law you must have a PFD and signal devise such as a whistle with you. This includes any light duty, multi-air celled inflatable's, kayaks, etc. The Sheriff's Office strongly recommends that you not only have a proper floatation devise (PFD) with you but that you WEAR IT. We also recommend that you wear a PFD when you float the rivers with single air celled floatation devices like inner tubes and "pool toys". If these become punctured or lose air, you have no recourse if you don't have a contingency plan. A citation for no PFD will cost you \$287.00!*
- Several water rescues have occurred on the upper McKenzie River due to people not being familiar with the hazards and route during their float. *When planning your river float, make sure you have either previewed the route you are going to take or talk to someone familiar with the route so you are aware of any hazards. Both route and hazards can change from week to week or year to year. **Boat within your skill level.** If the route is above your skill level we recommend that you contact or utilize the services of professional guides when floating the upper McKenzie River.*

*New Law requires boaters to wear appropriately sized PFD's while moving through Class 3 rapids. Lane County has Class 3 rapids on the upper McKenzie and at Hayden Bridge Rapids near Springfield.*

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