



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Water Safety Tips for a Safe Labor Day Weekend

JOHNSTON, Iowa – The unofficial end of summer, an extra day off, and warmer temperatures will draw more people to the water this weekend. The Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department (JGMFD) reminds those enjoying the water to do it safely.

"We want people to have a fun time and enjoy the water, but do so in a safe manner, said Fire Chief Jim Clark." "Accidents can happen quickly, so urge everyone to take the proper safety precautions to keep themselves and those on their vessel safe. As more look to outdoor activities, we want people to pay attention to their surroundings and always have a designated driver on the vessel."

For those planning on enjoying the water over the holiday weekend, the JGMFD suggests people:

- Wear a personal flotation device at all times
- Know where you are on the lake, river, or creek. If you need to make an emergency call, you can get first responders to you as quickly as possible.
- Tell someone where you are going, so they know where to send help if needed.
- Check your fire extinguisher and other safety equipment before heading out on the water.
- Carry a charged cell phone in the event of an emergency.
- Stay hydrated, as the sun and wind will dehydrate you even if you're not sweating.
- Keep an eye on the little ones. The water is still moving, and small children can be swept away quickly.

Before heading out on the water, it is crucial to be familiar with your location and the regulations. In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

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