With Summer-like Weather, Comes Safe Boating Reminder

Monday, 11 May 2009

{audio}/images/stories/mp3/090511.safe_boating.mp3{/audio}

Erik Wander/KMXT

Next week is National Safe Boating Week, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard's Safe Boating Campaign, and Kodiak plans to participate. A mayoral proclamation announcing May 16th through May 22nd as Safe Boating Week in the Kodiak Island Borough was issued at the Borough Assembly's regular meeting Thursday.

Borough Mayor Jerome Selby called the week the start of a year-round effort to promote boating safety. The proclamation emphasizes Kodiak Island's variety of commercial and recreational boating demands. It also stresses that weather and sea conditions in Alaska waters present dangers all year for the unprepared. Alan Morris of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Kodiak spoke at the meeting about the importance of boating safety awareness, particularly in Alaska, and said he hopes to see efforts continue beyond the week.

-- (Morris 1 48 sec. "Most lives lost in ... through the crab festival weekend also.")

Morris identified three programs the auxiliary sponsors, not just during Safe Boating Week. The first is a series of boating safety classes taught by certified instructors for boaters of all levels of experience, from recreational to professional.

-- (Morris 2 13 sec. "We hold boating safety ... best spent time they remember.")

Also part of the auxiliary's efforts is its "Kids Don't Float" program, which provides boxes of life vests at the Kodiak harbors that people can borrow. When the program began, only infant and child-size life vests were provided, but due to demand for youth and adult sizes, the auxiliary now has larger vests, as well.

-- (Morris 3 14 sec. "Hopefully starting May 16th ... slip off a child in the water.")

Morris said the auxiliary also provides free vessel safety inspections. The vessel safety checks or VSCs are designed to ensure that people's boats are in compliance with local, state and federal laws. Upon successfully passing the safety check, a VSC decal is placed on the boat. Morris said the auxiliary will be providing inspections free of charge during Safe Boating Week. Throughout the rest of the year, free inspections can be requested online.

-- (Morris 4 34 sec. "We won't give you a fine ... in Kodiak, safe boating week.")

For more information on National Safe Boating Week, the Kodiak auxiliary's participation in it and the programs it offers, visit our web site at kmxt dot org.

I'm Erik Wander.

###