



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

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Coeur d'Alene, ID – Boaters on Lake Coeur d'Alene who forget their life jackets are about to have one more option.

On Friday, May 15, 2015 the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will be installing a new life jacket loaner station at the Higgens Point boat ramp, located at the east end of Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive.

Currently, there are 69 loaner stations throughout Idaho, and this will be Kootenai County's 5th station.

Each loaner station has a handful of life jackets ranging in size from infant to extra-large. These life jackets are available to anyone that needs to borrow one. There are no fees, paperwork or hassle; it is all on the honor system. Just show up, grab a life jacket for the day and return it when you're done.

This program was created in 1996 and now several states, including Idaho have similar programs. The intent of the life jacket loaner program is to keep boaters safe and reduce the risk of drowning.

The official opening of the loaner station will be on Saturday, May 16th at Higgens Point. It will coincide with National Safe Boating Week's "Ready – Set – Wear it!" Life Jacket World Record Event, scheduled around the globe on May 16th which raises awareness of wearing a life jacket and general boating safety.

Members of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Recreation Safety Section, Idaho Parks and Recreation and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary will be on hand Saturday at 3:00 PM to open the life jacket loaner station and to also participate in the record setting inflate. We encourage anyone that would like to participate to bring a life jacket. This is an excellent time to have your life jacket inspected and get a refresher on boating safety.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Lieutenant Stu Miller