

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Life jackets, life preservers, and life vests are all types of personal flotation devices (PFDs). These devices are an effective aid to buoyancy and are designed to help you keep your head above water so you can breathe.

Over 75% of deaths on the water involve people who are not wearing a PFD.

PFDs are available in many different types, sizes, colors and materials depending on the water conditions and activities you plan to encounter.

Life jacket, life vest, or life preserver - whatever you call it and however it looks, a PFD can save your life, but **only if you wear it!**

Life Jacket Loaner Program

Do you need to borrow a life jacket? You can check one out, free of charge, at your local fire station.



Life jackets can be checked-out or returned at the following locations:

Monroe Fire District #3
163 Village Court, Monroe WA
(360) 794-7666

Snohomish County Fire District #5
304 Alder Street, Sultan WA 98294
(360) 793-1179

Snohomish County Fire District #28
512 Avenue A, Index WA 98256

Water Safety



Snohomish County Fire District #5
304 Alder Avenue Sultan WA 98294

Water Safety Tips*

- ✔ Learn to swim.
- ✔ NEVER swim alone.
- ✔ Always wear a life jacket if you will be in a boat or in the water.
- ✔ Always have one wearable life jacket for EACH PERSON in a boat.
- ✔ Keep children in life jackets AT ALL TIMES when in a boat.
- ✔ Remember, life jackets are NOT BABYSITTERS. Never leave a child unsupervised in or near the water.

**Provided by Snohomish County Safe Kids*



Make sure your life jacket is US Coast Guard approved!

Types of PFDs

Type I

Off-Shore Life Jacket

Best for open, rough waters where rescue may be slow arriving.

Type II

Near-Shore Buoyant Vest

Good for calm, inland water or where rescue will likely arrive quickly.

Type III

Flotation Aid

Generally the most comfortable type, but requires the user to turn himself face-up. Good for various water sports when rescue will likely arrive fast.

Type IV

Throwable Device

Designed to be thrown to someone in the water and grasped to the chest, not worn. They include boat cushions, rings, and horseshoe buoys.

Type V

Special-use Device

These are only for special uses or conditions. Read label carefully for limits of use.

Fitting Guidelines



- ✔ Choose a properly sized life jacket for each person, based on size and weight.
- ✔ The life jacket must fit snugly, but should be comfortable and allow free movement while swimming, sitting, or walking.
- ✔ All life jacket straps, zippers, and belts must be fastened.
- ✔ Check for proper fit: pull up on the life jacket at the shoulders to ensure that it does not ride up and interfere with movement or breathing. A child's life jacket should not slip over the chin and ears when pulling up.
- ✔ When in the water, the life jacket should not slide up over the chin.