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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### *PUBLIC SAFETY POINT - River Safety Tips After the Flood*

The nicer weather and summer activities will begin to attract a heavy amount of recreational traffic to the Elkhorn River, the North Fork, and Skyview Lake. After enduring rapid flood waters two months ago, the Elkhorn River and North Fork may pose some safety concerns for outdoor enthusiasts this year. With these areas being accessed daily, the Norfolk Public Safety Division offers these tips and things to remember when kayaking or tubing this summer:

1. Always wear an approved personal flotation device or life jacket when doing any activity in the water
2. Know your ability and your limits, and choose the appropriate location for your level of experience
3. Always try to have a partner when partaking in water related activities. If you go solo, make sure that someone knows where you are going
4. Avoid drinking alcohol when you have plans to be in the water. Alcohol can slow reaction times, which could alter the outcome of an accident significantly
5. Dress for the conditions – anticipate cool water temperatures which could lead to hypothermia
6. Take plenty of water with you on your adventure
7. Wear proper protective foot ware. The flood waters washed trash and debris along the river banks and in the river bed. Watch out for barbed wire, large tree limbs, and other unknown substances lodged underwater

The Elkhorn River is generally safe for kayakers with water levels at 4 ft. and tubers at 3'9". Because the North Fork running through town is controlled it is generally safe anytime; but, when water gets over 3'6" it can flow quickly and cause issues with exiting the river at the designated exit point in a timely manner.

Have a safe summer season and enjoy your float!

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