The second rescue in three days of stranded boaties was a reminder to all Top Enders to play it safe on the water, Police Fire and Emergency Services Minister Paul Henderson said.

“Fishing and boating is a great part of our Territory lifestyle, but we all need to play it safe on the water, particularly with the current squally conditions,” Mr Henderson said.

“Last night, the NT Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit (MFEU) rescued three men from Shoal Bay Beach after their dinghy was swamped in high seas and last Thursday night, the MFEU rescued a father and daughter from Buffalo Creek by after their boat had motor problems and sank.

“In both cases the situation could have been a lot worse but for the simple step taken by the boaties – they told someone where they were going and when they would be back – and the alarm was raised when they failed to turn up.

“There are simple steps boaties should follow before hitting the water:
  - Check your safety equipment and make sure you are carrying the required amount for your vessel;
  - Check the weather – if you are in doubt, don’t go out;
  - Check your fuel and make sure you have enough for the trip with fuel in reserve, and familiarise yourself with a chart of the area you will be going to;
  - Always tell someone where you are going, when you expect to be back, the type of vessel you will be in and the people you will be travelling with.

“By following these simple steps you can help make sure you will be back to tell everyone about the one that got away.”

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