



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-ZA

23 May, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: FY14 USACE Water Safety Challenge

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is strongly committed to reducing public recreation accidents and fatalities at all of our facilities. As we enter the annual primary recreation season with the Memorial Day weekend, I would like to reinforce our attention on water safety. I remain committed to ensuring a safe recreation experience for the 370 million annual visitors to our lake and river projects. Over the years, our park rangers and managers have done a magnificent job actively engaging the public by providing safety education, guidance, and physical hazard mitigation. The diligent efforts of our park rangers under your leadership prevent hundreds of lives from being lost, and I thank each and every one of you for your hard work.

2. Together we are all committed to strive to achieve the ultimate target of zero public recreation fatalities because one fatality is too many. Our agency goal still stands to decrease the number of fatalities by 50% by the end of FY14, using the total of 197 fatalities from FY11 as the baseline. In FY13, we recorded 162 fatalities which is an 18% reduction, thanks to your diligent efforts, but we still have work that needs to be done to reduce the number of fatalities even further.

3. Reducing public recreation fatalities by 50% is a challenging goal which requires your continued proactive efforts to include command and leader emphasis, resources and support of visitor safety education and outreach. In the end, maximum contact with the public by rangers, posters, signs, or Bobber the Water Safety Dog makes the critical difference. Please continue to adapt your efforts to address changes in Corps policy, recreation use, visitor expectations, economical effects and modern technology. Additional information regarding water safety programs, partnerships and strategies, including the revised *Strategic Campaign Plan for Reducing Public Fatalities*, can be found on the NRM Gateway website in the water safety section and by contacting Ms. Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager, at 817-886-1727 or Pamela.J.Doty@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your personal commitment to making recreation safety a reality for all USACE visitors!

Let's re-commit ourselves to keeping the public safe - Building Strong!

JOHN W. PEABODY
Major General, USA
Deputy Commanding General
for Civil and Emergency Operations

DISTRIBUTION:

Commanders,
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, CELRD
Mississippi Valley Division, CEMVD
North Atlantic Division, CENAD
Northwestern Division, CENWD
Pacific Ocean Division, CEPOD
South Atlantic Division, CESAD
South Pacific Division, CESP
Southwestern Division, CESWD