



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CECW-ZA

22 May, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: FY 2015 Water Safety Message to Commander's

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to ensuring that the visitors to our lake and river projects have a safe and enjoyable experience. As we enter the summer recreation season, I ask that you emphasize the importance of water safety at all levels of the organization. Even as summer brings added challenges, our field staffs do an outstanding job of implementing successful and innovative public safety strategies.
2. I am extremely proud of the actions taken in FY 2014, including over 2.3 million direct interpretive water safety contacts, thousands of boat patrol days, hundreds of water safety events, vessel safety inspections and other recreation related initiatives. These actions have resulted in a reduction in public recreation fatalities over the last three years and we would like to see this trend continue in FY 2015 and beyond.
3. We have multiple tools at our disposal to execute the water safety mission. Outreach and interpretive efforts have been critical to the success of our program and will continue to play a major role. In addition, to further support a safe recreation experience for our visitors, our park rangers utilize verbal warnings, written warnings and citations when required for compliance with regulations. Our rangers have an excellent record of working with visitors to avoid or diffuse difficult situations.
4. I would like all MSC and district commands to address the following actions:
 - a. Ensure that water safety continues to be a top priority and is fully supported by all applicable directorates and offices including, but not limited to, Operations, Safety, Security, Public Affairs, Counsel and Real Estate. Directorates and offices should work together whenever possible to develop, promote, and implement water safety programs.
 - b. Seek innovative ways to reduce office administrative burdens for field park rangers in order to increase available time for land and water patrols and direct interpretive contacts.
 - c. Share water safety programs and information regarding public recreation fatalities with concessionaires and outgrant lease and license holders and ask them to actively promote life jacket wear and public safety awareness programs. This is important

CECW-ZA

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because many public recreation fatalities occur in areas that are managed by others under real estate instruments.

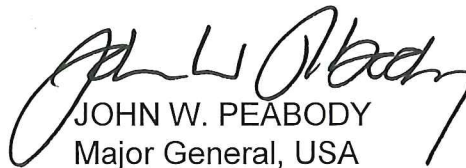
d. Focus water safety education and actions on the greatest at-risk group, which are adult males, using appropriate-toned messaging and new technology communication methods. Sustain and develop new water safety partnerships that have the capabilities to reach adult males.

e. Include positive, proactive public safety actions and successes as part of each district's command management review. Expand efforts to share lessons learned across the districts and divisions.

5. I recognize that our personnel in the field are doing an exceptional job with the resources available. With added emphasis and efforts, we can and should provide them with more help. Information about water safety programs, partnerships and strategies can be found on the NRM Gateway website, <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/nrm.cfm> 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.

6. Thank you for your personal commitment and I am confident that you will do all you can to ensure that all of our visitors have a safe and enjoyable time while visiting our recreation areas!

Building Strong!



JOHN W. PEABODY

Major General, USA

Deputy Commanding General

for Civil and Emergency Operations

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CECW-ZA

SUBJECT: FY 2015 Water Safety Message to Commander's

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