



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

CECW-CO

MAY 31 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Water Safety Message to Commanders

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) remains strongly committed to reducing public recreation accidents and fatalities. As we enter the primary recreation season I would like to reinforce our attention on water safety.
2. Our park rangers and managers do a commendable job in protecting our visitors by providing safety education, guidance, and enforcement. When considering the reductions in fatalities over the years coupled with the increase in visitation, I have no doubt that their diligent efforts have saved the lives of countless numbers of our recreating visitors and I thank them.
3. Over the past five years we experienced an average of 134 water-based public recreation fatalities per year. One life lost is too many, so we must work as one team, supporting each other to achieve even greater reductions. Regarding the fatalities over the past five years, 86 percent were men, 65 percent were between the ages of 20 and 60, and 88 percent were not wearing a life jacket.
4. The "Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns" campaign developed by the Corps National Operations Center for Water Safety in cooperation with the Corps Natural Resources and Education Foundation targets adult men. I encourage you to take advantage of the campaign's resources at PleaseWearIt.com and on Please Wear It Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter social media pages.
5. I appreciate your ongoing public safety efforts and accomplishments. Continue to promote water safety to all ages with an emphasis on adult men. Additional information regarding water safety programs, partnerships and strategies can be found on the Natural Resources Management Gateway website in the water safety section and by contacting Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager at 817-886-1727 or Pamela.J.Doty@usace.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Spellmon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

SCOTT A. SPELLMON
Major General, USA
Deputy Commanding General
for Civil and Emergency Operations

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