



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

2 June 2020

CECW-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS, DISTRICT
COMMANDERS AND CHIEFS OF OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: 2020 Water Safety Message to Commanders

1. I want to emphasize our commitment to ensuring that visitors to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lake and river projects have a safe and enjoyable experience. While water safety at all levels of the organization is a priority throughout the year, water safety will be particularly critical this year as we expect a surge of visitors light of the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, including visitors who may not be as familiar with water safety.
2. The FY98-19 USACE Public Recreation Fatalities Information developed by the USACE National Operations Center (NOC) for Water Safety shows that 88 percent were men, 80 percent were 18 and older, and 89 percent were not wearing a life jacket. Keep in mind these statistics and the other information in the report when implementing water safety initiatives within your command.
3. Providing safety education, guidance, and enforcement might have to be handled differently this year to help ensure employee safety. Continue to think outside the box and utilize the tools at your disposal to execute the water safety mission. Operation and maintenance (O&M) funds are authorized to purchase water safety educational products, which are considered necessary expenses for the O&M of USACE projects. This includes promotional items, advertising through air time, printed material, and billboard display space, but does not include items of personal value. Numerous resources to help you promote water safety are available on the NOC for Water Safety's websites, PleaseWearIt.com and www.Bobber.info, and Please Wear It social media pages.
4. Additional information can be found on the Natural Resources Management Gateway website in the water safety section or by contacting Pam Doty, National Water Safety Program Manager at 817-886-1727 or pamela.j.doty@usace.army.mil.

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

Encl
FY98-19, 14 May 20