

Detective Seamoor and the Case of the Missing PFD 2008

Ranger: My name is Ranger _____. I am a Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Rend Lake. How many of you have ever been to Rend Lake? How many of you like to go swimming or fishing? Great! An important part of a park ranger's job is to help people be safe around the water. That's what I would like to talk about today. Let me get a few things out of my water safety box before I begin. This is very curious. There is something missing from my box – I wonder what could have been there? What is this? A very soggy piece of paper. I'll bet it's a clue. Let me see what it says. (trying to unfold the wet paper, but can't seem to make any sense of the writing) Well, it looks like before we can begin talking about water safety we have a mystery to solve. What is missing from my water safety equipment box? I think this is a case for the greatest detective in the world - Detective Seamoor! He is a super duper crime fighter – he has seen all the CSI shows at least twice. What do you think? Shall we call Detective Seamoor out to help us solve this mystery?

Audience: YAAAAA

Ranger: Ok at the count of three I need everyone to call out Detective Seamoor's name. One, two, three. Detective Seamoor!

Seamoor: Hi boys and girls. Detective Seamoor is on the case. How may I be of assistance to you?

Ranger: Seamoor. Something is missing from my Water Safety Box. I can't teach water safety to these kids if my equipment is missing. We need your help in finding out what is missing.

Seamoor: Yes.

Ranger: I know that something was taken out of the box because there is an empty space.

Seamoor: Yes. Yes

Ranger: They left a note, but it got wet and I can't read it.

Seamoor: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Ranger: Is all you can say is YES, Seamoor?

Seamoor: Nooo. I mean this is terrible Ranger _____. We have a real mystery here. Did you get FINGERPRINTS? IDENTIFY SUSPECTS? PUT OUT AN APB? CALL THE PRESIDENT?

Ranger: Whoa Seamoor. Slow down. We don't even know what's missing yet, but I know it's important because anything that is used to save your life has to be important. You have to have the right equipment to be safe around the water.

Seamoor: Does it take a lot of equipment to be safe around the water?

Ranger: Not much. Good equipment and proper knowledge of water safety is what you need to keep you safe. By the way - Do you kids know the important rules of water safety?

Seamoor: Let's go over them just in case there is someone here that doesn't know the rules of water safety.

Activity: 6 volunteers -

A PVC stand listing on one side location of sites such as showerhouse, telephone, shelter, etc. and on the reverse side is listed the water safety rules. This stand will be located to the side of the stage. Each water safety rule has its own card. Each card is taken off the stand one at a time and handed to a volunteer. The ranger will approach each of the volunteers and ask them to turn over their card to reveal the water safety rule. As a rule is revealed the ranger is to discuss the water safety rule with the crowd.

Seamoor: Hey, we still have a crime to solve here. I see a clue here. Do you see it kids? It is as clear as the nose on my face. Let's move one Ranger.

Ranger: Where is the best place to find water safety equipment Seamoor?

Seamoor: Grandma's house.

Ranger: Grandma's house? Nobody's grandma keeps water safety equipment at her house.

Seamoor: They do if your grandma is a sea serpent and lives in the water. My Grandma always keeps safety equipment handy.

Ranger: I see what you mean Seamoor. Your Grandma must be a very smart Sea Serpent, but humans usually keep their safety equipment near the water on boats and at beaches.

Seamoor: I love the beach. But when I stay out in the sun too long my skin turns blue and hurts. Does that every happen to you?

Ranger: No Seamoor. I use sunscreen to keep my skin from getting RED. So should you Seamoor. It is very dangerous to go out for long periods of time without your skin being protected from the sun. Everyone needs to protect your skin from the sun while you are at the beach. There are also some other things you should do to keep yourself safe at the beach. Let's talk about some of them.

Beach safety activity.

2 Volunteers

Call up two volunteers and ask them if they can find one item that they could use to stay safe at the beach. They might pick from any of the items on the stage: reach pole, cooler, life ring, beach towel,

As the volunteers pick an item the Ranger will discuss how this item can help you stay safe on the beach. This is the time to discuss Reach, Throw, Row and Go For Help.

Seamoor: That was great but what about our mystery. Have you guessed what might be missing from your water safety equipment box yet? I know, Ranger. I have this mystery figured out. It is really very elementary my dear Ranger.

Ranger: Tell us Detective Seamoor. Tell us what it is that is missing from my WS box.

Seamoor: It is a PFD Ranger _____. It is a PFD that is missing from your box.

Ranger: A PFD? What is a PFD? Do you kids know what Detective Seamoor is talking about? Help us out Seamoor. What is a PFD?

Seamoor: A PFD is a Personal Floatation Device. A LIFE JACKET of course.

Ranger: Yes, Seamoor you are right! It must be a PFD. I carry all different sizes of PFDs in my bag. Sometimes I go to water emergencies and PFDs are handy to have around. Not everyone wears a PFD and sometimes they get into trouble in the water. I carry several different sizes in my water safety box so I can help out if a big person or a small person or an in between person gets into trouble in the water. Let's check this out to see if it really is a PFD that is missing from the box.

I need 4 helpers to help me to figure out which life jacket is missing.

PFD Activity:

4 volunteers from the audience

Life Jackets help people float and keep their head above water so they can breath. But not all life jackets are PFD's? Let me show you how it works. Give each person one of the following items – inflatable toy, kid's life jacket, adult jacket, throwable cushion. Give the jacket that is big to the very smallest person. Give the smallest life jacket to the largest person. Begin by explaining that PFD means PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE. That means that it is just for you. Explain how the large life jacket would not be a PFD for a tiny person because it is too big and they might just fall out and drown. They would need a smaller jacket that fits them snugly. The small life jacket would not be good for the large person because it can not fit around and be secured properly. The inflatable toy is not considered a PFD because it is made of plastic and full of air and not coast guard approved. Everyone needs to make sure that they get a wearable life jacket that is coast guard approved and fits them before they leave the shore. If you go out in a boat and suddenly have an accident – it is too late to think about getting your life jacket

on then. It would be like seeing that you are going to be in a car accident and then deciding that you would put your seat belt on. There is simply not enough time to get it done.

The last person has a throwable device. It is Coast Guard approved and is designed to be thrown to a drowning victim, but not designed to be worn. If you are a victim in the water and someone throws the cushion to you – catch it and hold it close to your chest, do not put it on your back like a back pack. That will make your face go down into the water. Instead, hold it to your chest and wrap your arms around the cushion. Lock your fingers together in front of you. This will not help for very long if the water is so cold that your hands go numb and you might not be able to hold on to the cushion. That is why it is very important that you wear your life jacket any time you get on the water.

Seamoor: PFDs are great. I always wear one when I'm around the water.

Ranger: Good for you Seamoor.

(Seamoor moves away from the Ranger and acts uninterested in the Ranger and what he/she has to say) Changing the subject ...

Seamoor: This school is great. I like the teachers here. I bet they are great teachers. They wouldn't get mad at me like my teacher do.

Ranger: Why do your teachers get mad at you Seamoor?

Seamoor: Sometimes I bring my homework to school wet.

Ranger: How does your homework get wet?

Seamoor: I live in the water. It happens a lot.

Ranger: Wait a minute Seamoor. Does your homework by any chance look anything like this? (holds up the wet letter from the box) and don't I recognize that life jacket you have on?

Seamoor: Uh oh.

Ranger: Look closely Seamoor. Do you recognize this handwriting?

Seamoor: Do I have the right to remain silent?

Ranger: No Seamoor. Talk to me.

Seamoor: I wanted to take a boat ride but didn't have a PFD.

Ranger: OK

Seamoor: I saw your water safety box with a PFD that was just right for me.

Ranger: OK

Seamoor: I was just going to borrow the PFD for a few minutes and bring it right back but I forgot. I must have dropped my homework near the bag as I was leaving.

Ranger: OK

Seamoor: Is all you can say is OK?

Ranger: No. I mean, I'm glad you wore a PFD when you were on your boat Seamoor. Being safe is a very important thing. I am glad that you told me about borrowing it. But Seamoor, you know you should always ask permission before you borrow something that doesn't belong to you and remember that if you use water safety equipment you must always put it back just in case there is an emergency and someone else needs to use it. No harm done this time Seamoor. Well, it looks like that solves the mystery of the missing PFD, doesn't it Detective Seamoor?

Seamoor: I know. I'm sorry. It won't happen again. Are we still friends?

Ranger: Sure Seamoor. We'll always be friends. (To audience) We want to be your friends too. That's why we are here to ask you to always be safe around the water. We want you to be safe so you can enjoy swimming and boating for a long, long time. Don't we Seamoor?

Seamoor: Yes we do.

Ranger: Now that we have solved this mystery maybe we should be moving on. Thank you very much for allowing us to talk to you about water safety. We would like to invite you come to Rend Lake to swim and boat some day. But no matter where you are be sure to remember the rules of water safety wher you are around the water. Have a great day boys and girls. Tell the boys and girls goodbye Detective Seamoor.

Seamoor: Goodbye boys and girls. Stay safe.