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NEWS RELEASE

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Boating Safety

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminds boaters that if you are planning on boating on any of the Corps of Engineers lakes, or other bodies of water, remember to wear your life jacket. The recent hot weather has resulted in peak numbers of water recreation enthusiasts at area lakes. The increase in visitation has also resulted in a higher incidence of water related boating accidents.

Nationwide, more than 700 people lose their lives in boating accidents each year. Nearly nine out of 10 of these victims were not wearing a life jacket. More than 4,500 people are injured each year in boating accidents. Some \$29 million in property damages are attributed annually to boating accidents. Nearly all drownings occur within 10 feet of safety. Non-swimmers often drown because of poor judgment, such as wading in non-designated areas, relying on an inflatable device, or attempting to swim across coves.

You are encouraged to take a safe boating course and check your boats safety equipment. Check and heed weather forecasts. While boating, keep clear of swimmers and designated swimming areas. And finally, don't drink and drive a boat; alcohol is involved in more than 50 percent of all boating fatalities.