



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Advisory

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Corps of Engineers to host free water safety events at Lynn Creek Marina

FORT WORTH, Texas – June 6 - 7 at Joe Pool Lake, a coalition of water safety organizations will gather to call awareness to a continuing need for boating and water safety in North Texas. While boating fatalities dropped nationwide in 2007, they climbed in Texas – despite one of the wettest summers on record that closed many boat ramps in the DFW area for a portion of the boating season.

Texas had 52 boating fatalities in 2007, the highest number since 2002. The overall number of accidents (260) and injuries (181) were up, too, from 2006. An estimated 360 million people visit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas annually. According to the National Safety Council an estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to unintentional drowning-related accidents each year; 15 percent die in the hospital and as many as 20 percent suffer severe, permanent neurological disability. Most of these accidents – if not all of them - were preventable.

Now that summer is here, authorities are asking boaters and swimmers to take special care while on and near the water:

- Always wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD)
- Avoid alcohol on the water, and always use a designated driver for the boat and a safe ride home.
- Pay attention to the people in your party, especially those in the water.
- Be especially careful on personal watercraft
- Children younger than age 13 **must wear** a Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway.
- Enroll in a boater education class.
- Learn to swim.

WHO: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and agencies of the North Texas Water Safety Coalition

WHAT: North Texas Water Safety Coalition Free Water Safety Fair/Kids Fish Free Tournament to highlight National Fish and Boating Week

- **June 6:** Representatives from boating and water safety organizations will present key water safety messages, provide interactive water safety games and demonstrations to over 200 kids from a select YMCA group.
- **June 7: Free Lifejacket exchange.** Representatives from boating and water safety organizations will present key water safety messages, provide interactive water safety games and demonstrations **to the public (kids and adults)**. Participants can also get a free lifejacket. Participants are encouraged to bring non Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (floaties, tubes, noodles, etc.) and exchange them for a new Coast Guard approved lifejacket. There is **no charge** to get in the water safety fair.
- **June 7:** Free Sportfishing Day in Texas/Kids Fish Free Tournament from 10:00 a.m. - noon at Lynn Creek Marina.
- One-on-one interview format and boat patrol ride-alongs.

WHEN: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 6 and 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Sat., June 7

WHERE: Lynn Creek Marina, Joe Pool Lake, Grand Prairie, Texas