



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers urges caution at the lakes over Labor Day weekend**

*FORT WORTH, Texas* –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is encouraging lake visitors to practice safety while enjoying the benefits of outdoor recreation. The Corps applauds its lake visitors this year for exercising vigilance and taking water safety precautions seriously. The 2009 recreation season has seen a 25 percent decrease in water related deaths on Corps lakes. With Labor Day weekend beginning Friday, the following safety tips are encouraged:

- Check your boat for all required safety equipment. Visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) for information on free Vessel Safety Checks.
- Wear a life jacket at all times.
- Leave your alcohol behind. Increase your safety, not your risks!
- Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat.
- Watch your children at all times.
- Swim in designated swimming areas.
- Low water levels change drop off points and expose new hazards.
- Avoid swimming in stagnant water.
- Boat Safe, Boat Smart, Boat Sober.

The Corps offers this final thought: Please make your visit to any recreation area a safe and enjoyable one. And remember, water safety saves lives.

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**About the Fort Worth District:** The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and military design and construction in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: [www.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil).