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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Canyon Lake stress water safety following nine drownings

Canyon Lake, Texas – Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Canyon Lake would like to remind everyone to be safe on the water. Canyon Lake is a great place to spend time with family and friends. Each year, Canyon Lake is a recreation destination for approximately one million visitors that come here with the intent of relaxing and making wonderful memories. On tragic occasions, this expected experience is destroyed when a loved one is injured or dies as a result of an accident on the water. The 2011 summer recreation season at Canyon Lake has seen nine water related fatalities due to drowning. Most or possibly all of these fatalities could have been avoided if a properly worn life jacket was used. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental deaths in persons ages fifteen to forty four. Male swimmers and boaters in this age range are at greater risk than females and for this reason should be extra cautious when on the water.

Officials at Canyon Lake want everyone to have fun and enjoy the lake, but we also want everyone to be extremely careful so that they can return to Canyon Lake. Lake users whether they're swimming, boating or even just camping or picnicking should always think about potential emergency scenarios. Below are some good water safety practices that could save your life.

- 1) Wear a properly fitted life jacket when in or near the water and learn how to swim
- 2) Always swim with a buddy
- 3) Children should always be supervised when in or near the water
- 4) Swim only in designated areas
- 5) Do not dive from elevated areas such as bluffs, large rocks, trees, bridges, etc...
- 6) Do not swim after floats that have drifted away nor rely on floats as a life jacket substitute
- 7) Pay attention to and comply with posted warnings
- 8) Avoid alcohol and other drug use that impair physical ability and judgment
- 9) Avoid risky behavior and challenges that could lead to injury or death
- 10) Swim within your limitations and abilities
- 11) Know the risks associated with boats, personal watercraft and your on the water activities
- 12) Be mindful of hazards exposed by lower lake levels
- 13) Always keep safety as a priority over fun and remember life jackets float and you don't.