



News Release

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release: NR11-047
Sept. 1, 2011

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts area water safety events during Labor Day weekend

FORT WORTH, Texas – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, in its ongoing initiatives to decrease accidents and fatalities on its area lakes, will host two water safety outreach events on Sept. 3 at Lavon Lake, from 9 a.m. to noon and at Lewisville Lake, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Lavon Lake event will take place at East Fork Park and will showcase water safety and the contributions and abilities of local agencies partnered with the Corps to include Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Wardens, Branch Fire Department, Wylie Fire and Rescue, and Farmersville Police Department. Featured activities include a patrol boat for visitors to climb on; staffed demonstrations on selecting and properly fitting a life jacket, why boating and drinking don't mix, and how weather conditions can affect boaters.

The Lewisville Lake event will take place at Lake Park and is a joint partnership event hosted by the Corps and Our Lands and Waters Foundation as a part of their 'Just Wear It' campaign. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will also be on-hand for the event. Featured activities include a sinking boat exercise, Personal Flotation Device Toss, Fatal Vision and Cool Hand Luke (hypothermia) exercises.

As the unofficial end of summer approaches, Fort Worth District lakes have experienced 35 fatalities this year. Fort Worth District ramped up its water safety outreach and education initiatives at the beginning of the summer season but still continues to see lake visitors take risks that can quickly turn a fun day on the lake into a tragedy.

With drought conditions and low water levels, the Corps reminds all lake visitors to please take extra precautions and watch out for submerged obstructions when boating and swimming and to recognize that designated swimming areas may be much smaller than they normally are. Visitors should avoid venturing outside those designated swim areas, always wear a life jacket, never swim alone, and avoid swimming or wading in stagnant or isolated waters of the lake.

"We want this last major holiday of the summer to be remembered for the fun experienced out at our lakes, not as the site of an avoidable death," said Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District.

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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 design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil.