



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Mississippi Valley Division

[cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil)

# News Release

**Release #:** 01-06

**Contact:** Bobbie Galford

**For Release:** May 21, 2001

**Phone:** 601-634-5760

## **National Safe Boating Week 2001- May 19-25\_**

VICKSBURG, Miss. , May 21, 2001 -- National Safe Boating Week is May 19 through May 25. This years theme is " Boat Smart From The Start. Wear Your Life Jacket." According to the National Safe Boating Council, between 700 and 800 people die in boat-related accidents each year. Most were not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD).

Gordon Cordes, Chief of Safety and Occupational Health for the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said that last year MVD recorded 10 water-related fatalities at its 46 recreational lakes and pools. Seven of those deaths were boat related and none of the people were wearing PFDs.

According to Cordes, the number of water-related fatalities within the Mississippi Valley Division has decreased over the past several years. Cordes believes this decline is due in large part to the warnings and messages sent out each year by the division informing the public about the importance of always using a personal flotation device.

Some of the biggest hazards to boating safety are inexperience, overloading, life jackets not worn, alcohol consumption and extreme weather. All of these things can be deadly during a boat outing.

If risks occur, identify them and decide what action needs to be taken to eliminate those risks. Some ways may be to delay plans and make sure all passengers have a PFD device.

For further boating and safety questions, contact the National Safe Boating Council at (740) 666-3009, or visit their web site address [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com).



