

News Release

Release No.CESWF-PA-06-037Contact: Clay ChurchFor Release:Immediate 29 Aug 06Phone: (817) 886-1306

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages safe recreation practices

FORT WORTH, Texas – The last recreation days of summer do not have to be deadly. Already this year for the Fort Worth District there have been 23 deaths at Corps operated lakes in Texas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is encouraging recreation seekers to practice safety while enjoying the benefits of outdoor recreation. With Labor Day weekend only a few days away the following safety tips are encouraged:

- Check your boat for all required safety equipment. Visit <u>www.cgaux.org</u> for information on free Vessel Safety Checks.
- Wear a life jacket at all times when in or near the water.
- 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 when around the water.
- If you plan to have fun in, on, or near the water, don't drink alcohol.
- Best to swim in designated swimming areas.
- Low water levels change drop off points and expose new hazards.
- Avoid swimming in stagnate water.
- Three BS's of Boating- 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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Visit the Fort Worth District Web Site at <u>www.swf.usace.army.mil</u>. We have park rangers and safety representatives available for interviews and to provide more safety information. Please contact Clay Church, Fort Worth District Public Affairs at (817) 886-1310 to schedule an interview.