

# Life Jacket Painting on Dam

The US Army Corps of Engineers at J. Percy Priest Lake will promote National Safe Boating Week in a big way this year as they try to remind visitors about the importance of wearing a life jacket, also known as a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

Plans are underway to paint a large color image on the earthen portion of J. Percy Priest Dam that will be highly visible by passing motorists on Interstate 40.

The 50' x 50' image will promote the importance of wearing a life jacket while enjoying activities on area lakes this summer. National Safe Boating Week is celebrated nationwide May 19-25. The Memorial Day weekend is typically considered the beginning of the recreational boating season.

“We are planning to paint a water safety message on the grass portion of J. Percy Priest Dam,” said Park Ranger John Baird. “We chose this location because we hope it will be highly visible from Interstate 40. We hope this will remind or inspire people to wear their life jacket.”

In many instances, a person may unexpectedly find themselves in the water.

The Corps of Engineers wants to remind everyone that a person's chances of survival after an unexpected entry into the water are much greater if a victim of such an event is wearing a life jacket. Individuals operating smaller vessels are much more likely to be involved in capsized- or man-overboard situations, therefore it is especially important for them to don the life jacket when operating such a vessel.

“We're excited to be able to reach so many people with the ‘Wear It’ message on the dam,” said Carolyn Bauer, Water Safety Task Force Coordinator for the Corps. “The Corps Water Safety Task Force is focused on public safety, with wearing life jackets as a top choice of having fun and being safe on the lake. It's easy to wear a life jacket with so many choices now, including lightweight inflatables. We're envisioning a shift taking place where people know that a life jacket is smart and what you wear on the lake, just like a seat belt is worn in a vehicle.”

Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, wants you to have a great boating season, and wearing a properly-fitting life jacket may be the best way to start out on the safe side when on area lakes. Park Rangers at J. Percy Priest will also be out on the Lake to provide water safety promotional information and to remind boaters to just “Wear It!”

