



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



April 2008

Program Management Plan for the Mississippi Valley Division Water Safety Program



Preface

The Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), acting through our six districts (St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans), is committed to providing public recreational opportunities while applying sound environmental operating principles to lands, waters, and other resources entrusted to our stewardship.

This program management plan (PgMP) provides a cooperative strategy for addressing the critical regional issue of water safety within MVD.

In accordance with ER 5-1-11, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Business Process, this dynamic PgMP will be reviewed annually to make sure it reflects changes in strategy, funding, or management goals.

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1.0 Purpose, Background, Strategy, Introduction, and Goals.

1.1 Purpose. This PgMP clearly defines water safety program goals that can best be addressed on a regional level. The result will be a regional plan that addresses water safety issues; defines goals, responsibilities, and milestones; addresses critical issues and creates a process for incorporating lessons learned.

1.2 Background. The Districts within the Mississippi Valley Division manage over 1.2 million acres of water and 597,000 acres of land. The Division's recreation program has 33 lakes, 39 navigation pools, 288 recreation areas, 14 visitor centers, 273 boat ramps, 6,030 camp sites, and 6,074 miles of lake shoreline. Between 1997 and 2007 there were 152 public fatalities at MVD recreation projects. This is an average of 14 fatalities each year for this eleven-year period. MVD currently has one of the lowest numbers of fatalities per visit of all Divisions at 0.50 fatalities per 1,000,000 visitor days. The national average is 0.80. While this is encouraging, continued assessment of ways to reduce fatalities is necessary in order to go from "good to great."

1.3 Way Ahead (Strategy). CEMVD-DC appoint a MVD Water Safety Product Delivery Team (WS-PDT) to develop a regional approach to water safety initiatives, and to support and enhance district and field project water safety programs by:

- Promoting regional water safety education with a consistent message.
- Creating new materials and methods to promote regional water safety.
- Practicing open communication and sharing lessons learned for all MVD employees who work with the water safety program.
- Evaluating regional water safety trends, statistics, and incidents.
- Developing a PgMP for the MVD water safety program and reviewing it annually.
- Consolidating the acquisition and distribution of water safety products within MVD.
- Encouraging Corps partnerships with appropriate agencies and businesses throughout the Mississippi Valley Division.
- Continuing to actively engage thru MVD PDT member representation in the USACE directive to evaluate mandatory personal flotation devices (PFDs).

1.4 Introduction. CEMVD Operations, Natural Resources, and Safety representatives initially met via teleconference in April 2008. The team developed the Division's initial draft of the Water Safety PgMP. They identified goals to incorporate into a regional strategic plan. Short and long-range goals were identified and incorporated into the plan. It was agreed that participants will solicit input from field offices, share information

and obtain feedback. The District Chiefs of Operations will be routinely briefed to ensure district support.

1.5 Goals.

<u>FY 2008 Goals</u>	<u>Action Lead</u>	<u>Suspense</u>	<u>Action</u>
Reduce Public Fatalities by 50% over the next 2 years	ALL	30 Dec 2010	Utilize goals outlined in this plan and the action plans of the Districts.
Seek input from field offices for water safety initiatives for posting on the NRM Gateway – Good Enough to Share.	Rachel Garren	Twice yearly	Migrate MVD Water Safety info into “Good Enough to Share.”
Prepare semi-annual regional order for water safety promotional items.	Bill Jackson	As needed	Consolidate district orders and procure items
Collect District initiatives and distribute annually.	ALL	30 February	Collect, combine, and distribute District WS Initiatives
Promote use of life jacket loaner program	ALL	FY 08	Expand # of life jacket loaner programs
Update PgMP	Lynn Neher	30 Dec 08	Obtain approval of revised plan
Publicize and share information about success of the Water Safety PDT.	PAO	At least quarterly	Distribute articles to District PAOs
Develop & Implement Water Safety Award Program	ALL	31 Jan 08	- Design Certificate Award - National Water Safety Medallion - Investigate link to Safety NOW
Provide updates of MVD recreation fatalities and year-to-date status	Ed McNamara	Ongoing	Ensure timely reporting of public fatalities through the PAN system
Develop Media Fact Sheet	PAO	15 May 2008	Develop Fact Sheet
Collect, analyze, and distribute trends data on target audiences	John Punkiewicz	Post Mem Day, July 4, Labor Day, and end of Rec Season. Prior to start of Rec Season	Distribute analysis to PDT for review in teleconference
Evaluate visitor fatalities and need for CISM assistance	Lynn Neher	15 May	Develop SOP to eval. fatalities for the purpose of disseminating lessons learned and evaluating the impacts on ranger staffs.

2.0 Organizational Responsibilities.

2.1 Mississippi Valley Division. MVD will provide oversight of the WS-PDT.

2.2 MVD Districts. District Commanders are responsible for managing recreational safety programs within their district boundaries. Each district, acting through the operations division, is responsible for actively supporting initiatives and implementing results. Districts will assign personnel to the WS-PDT and ensure that products meet customer requirements and needs.

2.3. PDT Composition. The MVD recreation program manager will be a permanent member. The MVD-PD-KM Chief and the MVD-SO will be co-champions. Each district's operations division will provide one permanent representative (District's water safety POC) and one rotating member (preferably from a field project) to serve as a field advisory member. In addition, two district safety offices and two district public affairs offices will provide a representative. The MVD representative on the HQUSACE Water Safety Product Delivery Team will be a member for the length of appointment to the WS-PDT.

2.4 PDT Meetings. The WS-PDT will meet as the need arises and will conduct routine teleconferences or videoconferences to review progress and to recommend revisions to this PgMP. A teleconference will be conducted following the major camping holidays of Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day to discuss trend data as prepared per PgMP goal. A teleconference will be held following each water related recreation visitor fatality to discuss lessons learned per PgMP goal. Meetings as needed will rotate among districts and will be held at field projects. Project staff at the host location will be invited to participate in the meeting to provide input and field level perspective while developing Division water safety initiatives and goals.

2.5 PDT Expenses. All expenses, salary, travel and per diem will be the responsibility of the employee's organization.

2.6 PDT Members. The following names listed are team members and the organization they represent:

Kevin Berg, St. Paul District
John Punkiewicz, Rock Island District
Pam Doty, MVD Representing National Water Safety Team
Rachel Garren, St. Louis District
Bill Jackson, Vicksburg District
Michael Saucier, New Orleans District
Donny Weaver, Vicksburg Safety Office (Primary)
Troy Larson, Rock Island Safety Office (Alternate)
Mark Kane, Rock Island District Public Affairs (Primary)
Peter Verstegen, St. Paul District Public Affairs (Alternate)
Lynn Neher, Mississippi Valley Division

2.7 PDT Field Advisory Members. The following is a list of Field Advisory Members. These members will be on a rotation as described below and are to be kept apprised of all PDT activities and issues. They will represent the primary PDT member as needed. This will ensure a cadre of knowledgeable experts as attrition occurs.

Scott Tichy, St. Paul District, (2008-2010)
Emily Coffin, Rock Island District, (2008-2012)
John Daves, St. Louis District, (2008-2010)
Diane Cook, Vicksburg District, (2008-2012)
Chris Brantely, New Orleans District (2008-2010)

3.0 Fiscal Objectives: This PgMP will strive to ensure that O&M recreation funds are used efficiently to meet our goals to insure public safety. The chief of operations in each district will approve identified fiscal resources and potential commitments. The PDT will ensure effective work execution and fiscal closeout.

4.0 References.

ER 5-1-11, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Business Process.

ER/EP 1130-2-500, Project Operations, Partners and Support (Work Management Policies).

ER/EP 1130-2-550, Project Operations, Recreation Operations and Maintenance Policies.

5.0 Program Management Plan Approval. The MVD Division Commander, acting through the Director of Programs and the Chief, Operations and Regulatory Community of Practice (CoP) is responsible for program oversight. The PDT will submit the PgMP to the Chief, Operations and Regulatory for approval of the initial document and all updates. Following initial approval, the PDT will update the PgMP.

