

# Work and Recreation on the Water

## Small Boat / Paddlesport Safety



# **Work and Recreation on the Water Topics**

- **CRG Projects**
- **Small Boat Statistics**
- **Accident Reviews**
- **Paddlesport Safety**

# CRG Projects Using Watercrafts

- Pompton
- Waynesboro South River
- Chambers Works
- Spruance
- Belle
- Potomac River
- Oakley
- Oak Creek
- Delaware River
- Newport
- Pike Property
- Beaumont
- Washington Works
- Edgemoor

# Types of Watercraft Used on CRG Projects



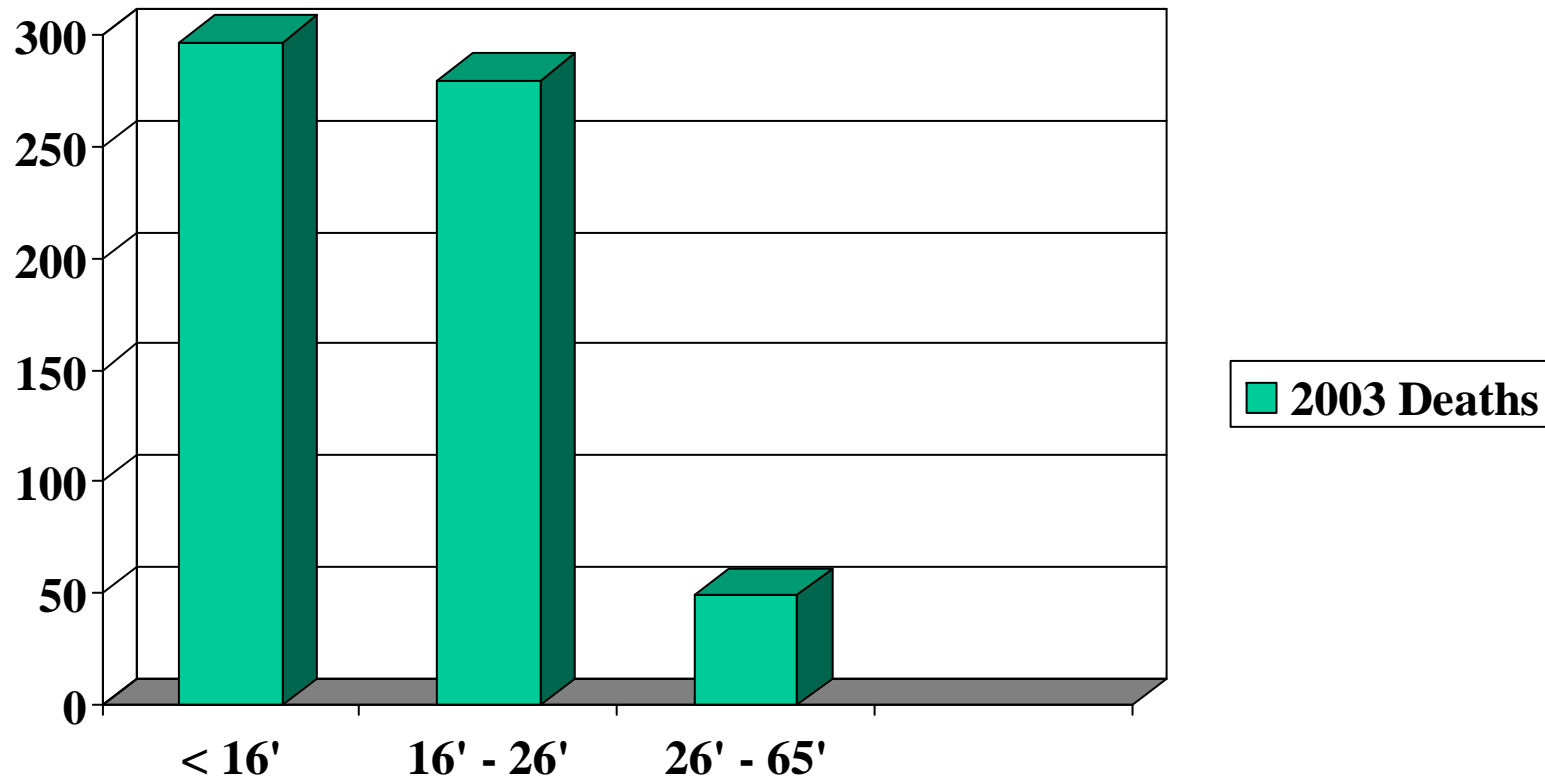
# **Small Boat Statistics**

# **U.S. Coast Guard 2003 Data Boating Statistics Summary**

- Over 12.8 million registered boats. The 5,438 boating accidents resulted in 703 fatalities.
- 492 fatal accident victims drowned, 408 of the victims who drowned were not wearing a PFD.
- 80% of all fatalities involved operators who had not received boating safety instruction.
- Alcohol was involved in 31% of all fatalities.

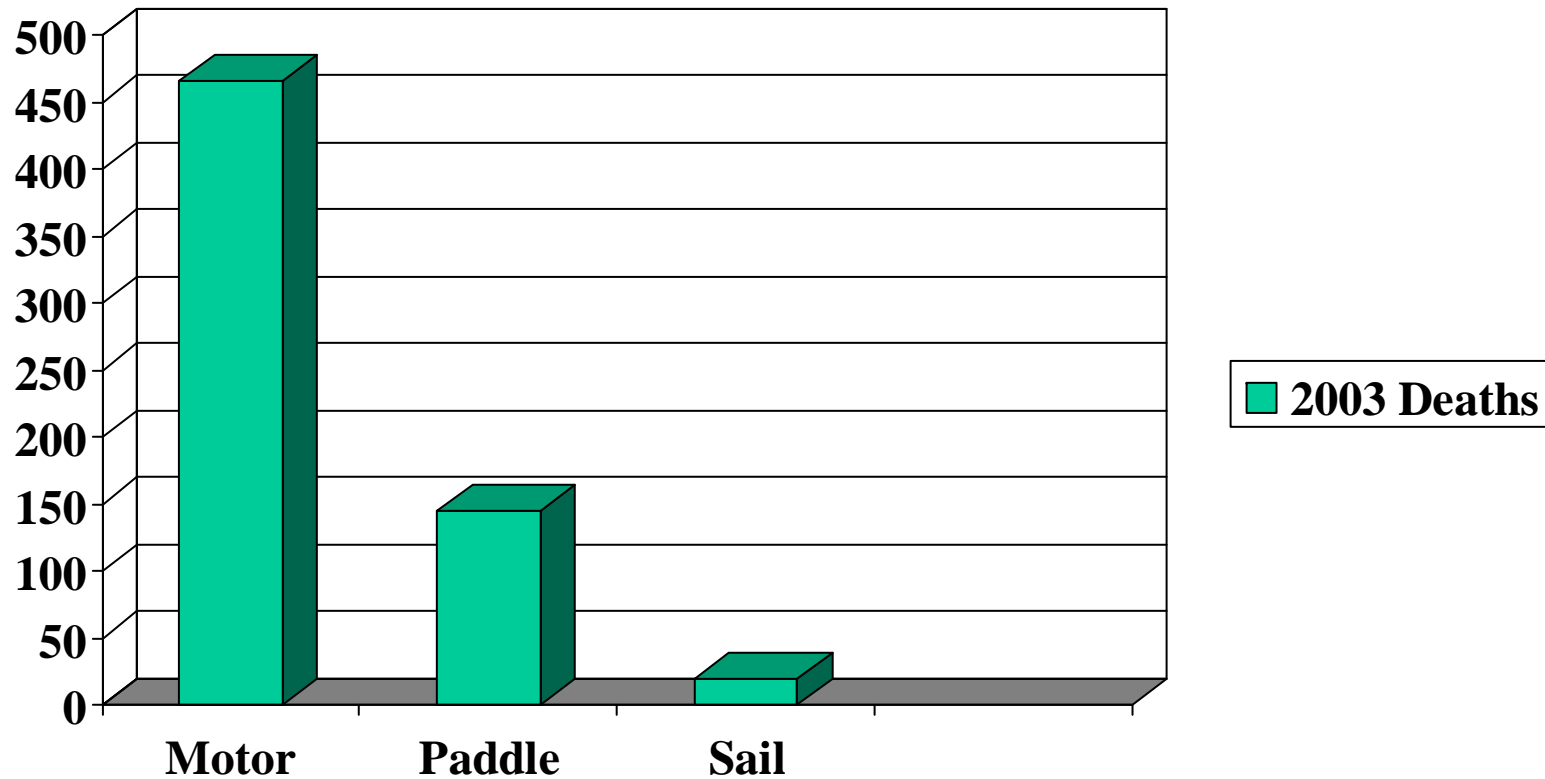
# U.S. Coast Guard Data

## Number of Fatalities by Boat Length



# U.S. Coast Guard Data

## Number of Fatalities by Vessel Type





# Canoes and Kayaks

- ~500,000 sold per year for the last decade
- 30% canoes, 70% kayak sales
- Kayaking is one of the 20 fastest growing sports, 6.1 million Americans used a kayak in 2004
- 48 million people went canoeing, kayaking and rafting in 2003



## American Canoe Association

### “Critical Judgment -- Understanding and Preventing Canoe and Kayak Fatalities” (2002)

- \* Of all fatalities examined, 75 percent were associated with canoeing.
- \* Approximately 83 percent of fatality victims were **not wearing a PFD** at the time of the accident.
- \* **Occupant movement and weight shift** played a major role in roughly 50 percent of all accidents.
- \* Approximately 50 percent of victims in canoe- and kayak-related fatalities were **fishing at the time of the accident**.
- \* At least 25 percent of victims in fatal accidents are believed to have **consumed alcohol** immediately prior to the accident.



# **Accident Reviews**

## **Loss of two young women off Chatham last month spurs effort to prevent another tragedy (Nov 2003)**

**The two had departed for a brief jaunt in two **borrowed kayaks** from a private beach in Harwich Port. After being gone almost an hour, friends notified police that they were missing, and a massive, three-day air, sea and land search was launched. Only the body of Mary Jagoda, 20, of Huntington, N.Y. was recovered. She was not wearing a life jacket. The body of her companion, 19-year-old Sarah Aronoff, of Bethesda, Md., remains missing. **If the two had been wearing life jackets, the outcome might have been much different.****

## **Massive Search and Recovery Effort Finds Victim of Accidental Drowning (Nov 2000)**

**The body of police officer Paul J. Nichols was recovered Tuesday, three days after he drowned in a kayak boating accident in Tisbury Great Pond.**

**Mr. Nichols set out in a borrowed 13-foot sea kayak Sunday afternoon. Sources tell the Gazette that Mr. Nichols had no prior kayak experience, though he had been in conversations with other enthusiasts for months about taking up the hobby.**

**The weather that afternoon had changed from relatively mild to stormy in a short time.**

**The body of Mr. Nichols was recovered in 12 to 15 feet of water. A life jacket was not found on the body. The water temperature in the pond was 41 degrees.**

## **Canoeing Accident Victim Identified (Apr 2005)**

**Henrico County resident Arthur Suarez, 40, was trapped in the hydraulics of the Williams Dam, located between Huguenot Woods and Pony Pasture, when the canoe carrying the man and two friends capsized after 6 p.m. Capt. Paul S. Kiniry said.**

**Officials were uncertain how long the victim, who was wearing a life jacket, was trapped underwater.**

**The water level at the river Saturday was almost 8 feet, about 3 feet above normal.**

**People must obtain permits to be on the river when the level reaches 9 feet, police officials said.**

## **COLD WATER STILL KILLS, EVEN IN JUNE (2001)**

**Air temperatures may be taking on a summer-like feel, but across Pennsylvania water temperatures remain chilly – posing a potential dangers to those who ignore the real risks cold that still exists.**

**The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission points to a recent fatal canoeing accident on the Delaware River as a tragic reminder of that very fact. A 52-year old woman died after **capsizing in water with a temperature less than 60 degrees**. While a number of factors contributed to her death, including the fact she was **not wearing a life jacket** at the time of the accident, the **bone-numbing chill of the water** played a major role.**

# Flooding Kills Middletown Man in Canoeing Accident (Sept 2003)

HARRISONBURG — A Middletown man drowned early Friday morning in a Harrisonburg **stream swollen by heavy rains** from Tropical Storm Isabel.

Christopher Ball, a 21-year-old junior at James Madison University, capsized while canoeing in Blacks Run, according to the Harrisonburg Police Department.

**Two others were in the canoe** but escaped unharmed — housemate David Sule, 21, of Danville, and Kristen Edwards, whose address was unavailable.

“This is just a small stream,” Harrisonburg Fire Chief Larry Shifflett said. “I have never known anybody to put a boat in Blacks Run and try to go down Blacks Run. It is just not deep enough under normal conditions.”

But heavy rain that drenched Harrisonburg and high winds that snapped tree trunks made **conditions anything but ordinary**. The trio put the canoe in the water behind the house where Ball lived at 416 S. High St. When the canoe **capsized around 2:36 a.m.**, someone ran to the fire station on Maryland Avenue.

Cooney, a senior studying athletic training and sports medicine, found Ball’s drowning frightening.

“I am sure it was all in fun,” she said of the canoe ride. “**But it is scary that something fun can turn into disaster.**”



## River Patrol Rescues Three From Overturned Canoe (Apr 2006)

### *All Had Life Jackets*

Independence, Ore. -- Three people were pulled Sunday from the Willamette River after their canoe capsized.

Oregon State Police troopers were on routine river patrol near Independence when they discovered the **overturned boat with three adults hanging on the side**.

The two men, ages 68 and 42, and one woman, 68, were pulled into the patrol boat. They were cold and wet but otherwise OK. The three **were wearing life jackets**, which troopers say may have saved their lives.

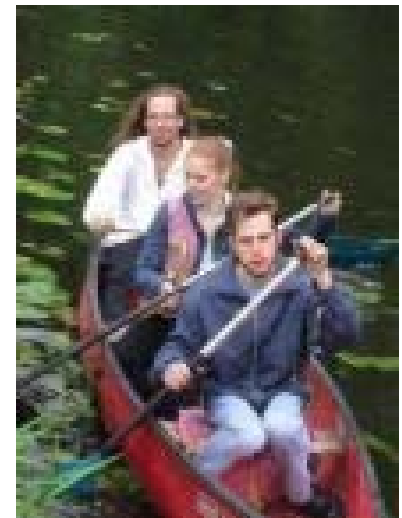
About **10 minutes before the troopers arrived, the canoe flipped** in a choppy section of water. The fast current and cold temperature, about 41 degrees, kept them from reaching shore.



# **Paddlesport Safety**

# Paddler's Safety Checklist

- Receive Instruction on Safe Operation
- Make Sure the Boat is Properly Trimmed
- Be a Competent Swimmer
- File a Float Plan
- Know Current and Predicted Weather Conditions
- Wear a PFD, and Keep it Snug



# Paddler's Safety Checklist

- Know the Waters to be Paddled
- Never Go Alone
- Be Prepared to Summon Assistance
- Dress for the Water Not for the Air
- Expect to Flip, Stay with the Boat
- Know your Emotional and Physical Limitations



## Be Prepared For:

- Outings which extend past the estimated return time
- Weather pattern changes
- Minor medical emergencies
- Low light conditions
- Other water traffic



# Equipment Checklist

- PFD, throwable floatation device
- Waterproof first aid kit with matches
- Chart or map, GPS
- Proper footwear
- Signaling device
- Spare paddle
- Duct tape, small tool kit, knife
- UV eye protection
- Sunscreen, drinking water
- Disinfectant hand wipes
- Dry bag, extra clothing





### **Type I - Off-Shore Life Jacket**

Provides the most buoyancy and is best for open, rough or remote water, where rescue may be slow in coming. It is designed to turn most unconscious wearers face-up in the water.



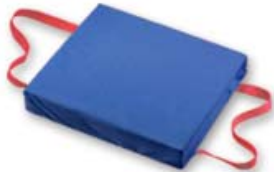
### **Type II - Near-Shore Buoyant Vest**

Good for calm, inland water or where there is a good chance of quick rescue. This type will turn some, but not all, unconscious wearers face-up in the water. Less bulky than a Type I PFD, the Type II is the least expensive type of PFD.



### **Type III Flotation Aid**

Good for calm, inland water or where there is a good chance of quick rescue. Designed to keep the wearer in a vertical position, it may require the wearer to tilt their head back to avoid going face-down in the water and therefore is not recommended for extended survival in rough water. The Type III allows more freedom of movement for active water sports and is generally the most comfortable type for continuous wear.



### **Type IV Throwable Device**

An approved device which is designed to be thrown to a conscious person in the water. This device is not designed to be worn. These usually take the shape of a boat cushion, life ring, or horseshoe device.



### **Inflatable PFD'S**

Inflatable PFD's come in Types I, II, and III. They are not inherently buoyant and will not float without inflation. The lower the Type number, the better the PFD's performance (e.g., Type I is better than Type II).

Although inflatable PFD's are considered one of the most comfortable PFD's to wear when it's hot, they require regular maintenance and are not recommended for children or individuals who can't swim. Inflatable PFD's are not for use where water impact is expected as when waterskiing, riding personal watercraft, or whitewater paddling.

# Applicable Fact Sheets

- Boating Safety
- Waterborne Diseases
- Bees, Wasps, Hornets, and Yellowjackets
- Chiggers
- Lyme Disease
- Poisonous Plants
- Snakes
- Spiders
- West Nile Virus
- Sun Safety
- Snapping Turtles



# Additional Information

- American Canoe Association
  - <http://www.acanet.org/safety/safety.lasso>
- U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety
  - <http://www.uscgboating.org/index.aspx>