FISHING – Boating and Water Safety

PERSON IN WATER

With Person in Water, Go in method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in water:

1. If the person is to you, throw (or throw yourself) a ring or a line (such as a boat, canoe, or even a tree on shore).

2. If you can reach the person, then try to throw him to you from the shore. If you cannot reach the person, then you can use a line or a ring to get the person to you.

3. If you can get the person to you, then you can help him get to safety.

BOATING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Anyone born on or after December 28, 1961, must successfully complete boating safety education prior to registering a vessel. This course is available at the Division of Natural Resources, www.wv.gov.

Fishing Guide

A guide to public fishing and boating access sites, and trout-stocked waters

Fishing and Boating Access Sites

Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be available to the public for the purpose of fishing and boating from the shore. No other use of these facilities is allowed. These access sites are maintained by the Division of Natural Resources.

District 1

Fishing Guide

A guide to public fishing and boating access sites, and trout-stocked waters

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**BOATING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT**

Anyone born after December 31, 1979, must successfully complete an approved boating education course before operating a motorboat. The course is available on the DNR website at www.wvdmr.com/BoatingEducation.

**WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET**

Personal flotation devices are not just for swimmers in boats and not just for those who can’t swim. Make sure your PFD is in good condition and this properly. Youth under 12 years old must wear a PFD any time on a boat in any water while the boat or the watercraft is moving. A boat cushion is not a wearable PFD.

**WADING**

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading:

- Wear waders, rubber boots and keep your weight distributed.
- Wear your PFD.
- Find out whether the bottom is rocky or sandy.
- Shuffle your feet or probe with a stick along the bottom to avoid holes.
- Study how swiftly the water is moving.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the water temperature and bottom substrate.
- Get out of the water if you start to feel uneasy.

**PERSON IN WATER**

GO (swim) to the person ONLY as a last resort and only if you can pull the person to you. An inflatable ball or foam cooler can also be used if the proper device is not available. If you are in cold water, the particle is not viable. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or you can pull the person to you. An inflatable boat is not a viable PFD.

**FISHING IN COLD WINTER**

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. A common cause of hypothermia is exposure to cold water. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. Emergency treatment: get the victim out of the cold, give warm drinks, wipe the victim dry and put the victim in dry clothes.

**FISHING TIPS**

- Remove excess gear before going in the water.
- Wear waders to keep your feet warm.
- Do not wear cold-weather gear.
- Cotton clothes will not keep you warm when wet and should not be worn on a canoe trip. Neoprene waders are good cold weather gear.

**STREAM LITTER LAW**

Do not leave fishing line, bait containers or other trash.

**INNOVATION - ANGLER RELATIONS**

Explore West Virginia’s Public Fishing Areas Online. Click the links to view information about public fishing areas throughout the state.

**USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

- Report Wildlife Violation: 1-800-622-5118
- Report Poaching: 1-800-622-6337
- Contact a Local DNR Natural Resources Police Officer: 304-825-6367
- Contact a Local DNR Law Enforcement Official: 304-825-6270

**Report Boating, Fishing, and Hunting Violations**

In Progress - Call DNR Office 304-825-6787 Fax: 304-825-6270

Next Progress - Call DNR Law Enforcement Official during normal operating hours.

1. Observe and write down all the information concerning the violation.
2. Do not confront violator.
3. Contact a local DNR Natural Resources Police Officer or report the violation online at www.wvdmr.com/ReportATip.

Get involved in protecting our sport, be willing to stand up.

**Fishing Guide**

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ANGLERS ALERT

Spread of Unwanted Organisms

Moving live fish or aquatic animals and plants from one waterbody to another is a potential source of damage to the ecological stability of lakes and streams and can affect the survival of our native fish species. Please take these precautions to prevent problems:

• Do not fish here if you have been in another state or country within the past 25 days before leaving the area.
• Do not release live fish or aquatic animals into West Virginia waters.
• Do not transport fish, aquatic animals, or live bait in a small boat or another watercraft.
• Do not bring live bait or equipment into another watershed.
• Do not use plastic bags or other containers to transport fish or aquatic animals.
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Fishing and Boating Access Sites

Fishing and boating activities across the state can be used safely for the purpose of fishing and retaining waterfowl and small game. No hunting use of the access sites is allowed.

After hunting, vehicles shall be parked in a safe parking area. Any hunting or fishing officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access site.

The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:

• consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open can of alcoholic beverages
• swimming or bathing
• camping
• parking on fees

• trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided
• discharge of firearms, fireworks or explosives

LANDOWNER – ANGLER RELATIONS

West Virginia anglers are entitled to local landowners throughout the state. Any landowner who chooses to exclude any waterbodies on a private property is largely dependent upon angler patrols and contact. West Virginia Division of Natural Resources patrol officers are trained to work in concert with landowners. Do not leave fishing line, bait containers or other trash.

STREAM LITTER LAW

It is illegal to throw litter, fish or animal carcass, or any other material into a water body near a public site. Provisions of the law apply to any location where high water would wash the matter into a water body.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the West Virginia Fishing Regulations booklet for:
• Reciprocal fishing agreement on Ohio River
• Fishing conservation information
• Sport fish identification

Online

For more detailed information on individual access sites, go online to

www.wvdnr.gov
FISHING – Boating and Water Safety

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PERSON IN WATER

Reach – The person is close enough that you could reach out and touch them. If you can’t reach the person, then TOW them away from the danger. If you can’t reach the person, then TOW them to safety.

Rescue – The person is struggling, you can grasp them and pull them to safety. If you can’t rescue a person, then ROW them to safety.

Evacuate – The person is not able to help themselves. They need assistance immediately. If a rescue isn’t possible, then evacuate the person.

FISHING IN COLD WEATHER

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, fast or labored breathing, slurred speech, confusion, and exhaustion. If untreated, hypothermia can lead to death.

Wearing the proper clothing is crucial in cold weather fishing. A wool hat prevents heat loss from your head. Fleece, down, or Synthetek between the layers serves as insulation. A fleece beanie is a good choice. A wool or fleece hat can be worn on a canoe trip. Neoprene waders are good for wading in cold water.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Personal flotation devices are not just for wading in boats and not just for those who can’t swim. Swim in a life jacket. Most states require life jackets to be worn on fishing trips. A life jacket in a wearable PDJ.

WADING

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

• Wade with a fishing buddy.
• Wear appropriate foot wear (considering water conditions).
• Do not leave fishing line, bait containers or other trash.
• Do not leave fishing line, bait containers or other trash.
• Avoid holes.

PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES

Mandated law for anyone on or near the water while operating a motorized vehicle.

• 5 - Adult
• 3 - Child
• 2 - Infant

WEAR THE RIGHT JACKET

There are many life jackets available, but choose one that fits properly. Youth under 12 years old must wear a Type I jacket. Youth 12 years old must wear a Type II jacket. Adult, Child, or Infant life jackets are available.

WATER RESOURCES SECTION – District 1
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
1700 N Kanawha Street
Charleston, WV 25301
304.825.4777 • Fax: 304.825.6270
www.wvdnr.gov

District 1

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