

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE**

DIRECTIVE #: D903

Page 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Use of the Personal Flotation
Device (PFD) While On Board DNR
Vessels and Boating Safety Training

Approved: June 19, 2008

THE LANGUAGE USED IN THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYEE AND THE AGENCY. THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE ANY CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OR ENTITLEMENTS. THE AGENCY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART. NO PROMISES OR ASSURANCES, WHETHER WRITTEN OR ORAL, WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO OR INCONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THIS PARAGRAPH CREATE ANY CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wants to ensure the safety of its employees and visitors on board DNR vessels. The DNR requires that all employees and its visitors wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while on board DNR vessels. All DNR employees are expected to wear a PFD at all times while on the water when on board a DNR vessel unless an exemption is authorized by the Division Director or Agency Director.

I. Exemptions

Exemptions must be approved by the vessel operator's Division Deputy Director. Exemptions will be granted when the wearing of a PFD (life jacket) interferes with one's safety while performing specific on board job duties. The vessel operator's Deputy Director may also grant an exemption based on the size of the vessel.

II. Children and Visitors

All children under 12 years of age who are on board a class A (less than 16 feet long) vessel must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD. The PFD must properly fit the child and be fastened.

Visitors 12 years of age and older are expected to wear a PFD at all times while on the water when on board a DNR vessel unless an exemption is granted. The DNR vessel operator shall obtain an exemption to wear a PFD **prior** to taking visitors on board a DNR vessel.

DIRECTIVE #: D903	Page 2 of 2
SUBJECT: Use of the Personal Flotation Device (PFD) While On Board DNR Vessels and Boating Safety Training	Approved: June 19, 2008

III. Maintenance of PFD

Employees who are issued PFDs are expected to regularly inspect them to ensure they are in good working condition. PFDs that are on board DNR vessels shall also be inspected regularly by the operator to ensure that they are in good working condition. Look for rips or tears, discolored or weakened material, insecure straps or zippers, or labels that are no longer readable. If using an inflatable PFD, check the status of the inflator and CO2 cylinder. If the cylinder has been used to inflate the PFD, replace the spent cylinder and re-arm it. Damaged PFDs are not to be worn and must be replaced with a PFD that is in good working condition.

IV. Boating Safety Training

All DNR vessel operators are required to complete the South Carolina Boating Safety Course offered by the DNR, an approved National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) boating safety course, an U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License course, or obtained a U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License. Questions concerning approved courses or licensure should be directed to the vessel operator's Deputy Director.