An Alaskan Boating Safety Program

...YOU CAN DO IT TOO!
background

- Began in Homer in 1996- statewide in 1997
- DHSS, USCG, AOBS, ASK
- Lifejacket loaner boards
  - 466 boards around AK today
- Educational lessons for schools
  - 2 in-class lessons, 1 in-water lesson
10 Leading Causes of Fatal Injuries in Alaska by Age Group, 2001-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>&lt; 1 year old</th>
<th>1-4 years old</th>
<th>5-9 years old</th>
<th>10-14 years old</th>
<th>15-24 years old</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>suffocation</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>motor vehicle 9</td>
<td>drowning 7</td>
<td>motor vehicle 22</td>
<td>suicide 159</td>
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<tr>
<td>assault</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>pedestrian 8</td>
<td>motor vehicle 5</td>
<td>drowning 12</td>
<td>motor vehicle 104</td>
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<tr>
<td>drowning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>drowning 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>assault 12</td>
<td>assault 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>poisoning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>poisoning 43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division of Public Health, Dept. of Health & Social Services, AK Bureau of Vital Statistics

Drowning 35
KDF Success!

- 19 children have been saved by KDF loaner board lifejackets (confirmed)
- Almost 80,000 children reached today
- Over 190 schools visited
- Over 50 Alaskan communities reached
- In the 2002 *Alaska Boater Survey*, 18% of Alaskan boaters said they have used KDF lifejackets from a loaner board.
- In a 1997 PFD wear-rate study, the observed life jacket wear rate increased from 16% to 35% immediately following the installation of a loaner board.
- The 2001 PFD wear-rate study showed that wear rates of children between 0 and 17 years of age averaged 50% in areas without loaner boards but averaged 75% in areas with loaner boards.

Today, Alaska has approximately 105,000 children enrolled in 384 schools. We’re halfway there!

(ak.localschooldirectory.com)
KDF goes international!

- Washington
- Montana
- Illinois
- California
- Texas
- Louisiana
- North Dakota
- Georgia
- Michigan
- New Hampshire
- Oregon
- Oklahoma
- Wisconsin
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Colorado

- CANADA!
Changing the culture

- Adult drowning rate MUCH higher than child
- taboo/social aversion to lifejackets
- Get ‘em while they’re young!
Starting A KDF Program

- You are not alone, we are here to help!
- Instructors statewide
- Curriculum is on the web
get yourself out there!

- Call schools, principals, teachers, after-school programs, summer camps, library, museums, etc…
- Hang flyers
- Hand out information at conferences, meetings, school fairs, etc…
- Put postcards in teacher’s school mailboxes
- Use your community contacts!
Educational Component

- 3 lessons, last being an in-water lesson
- 1st lesson taught most often
- Covers K-6 grades, can be adapted to older grades
- Typically taught in 1-hour blocks
Methods of Evaluation

- Instructor/class evaluations to all teachers
- 4th grade & higher receives a short quiz at the end of the program
  - 10 questions
  - Multiple choice
  - Basic safety knowledge
KDF PFD Loaner Program

- Loaner Board Sponsors
- Loaner Boards at Harbors & Launch Ramps
- PFDs Provided by KDF Agencies or Local Groups
- Boaters Borrow PFDs and Return After Use
- 2001 PFD Wear Rate Study Showed Increased Wear Rate at Loaner Sites
KDF PFD Loaner Program

- Annual Community Survey & Feedback
- PFD Use 5-1500 Times Per Site (survey result)
- Little/No PFD Loss (some loss, some gain!)
- Very Positive Program Support
KDF Peer Education Program

- Trained High School Students Teach Elementary School Students
- Volunteers Train High School Students
- Community Service or Health Class Credit
- Step-by-Step Training Program (easy to use!)
High School Training: How it Works

- Set Up Training With Local High School (students sign up)
- Hold 2-3 Hour Training (PFD Use, Activities)
- Students Develop Lesson Plans During Session
- Hold Subsequent Organizing Session (1 hour)
- Students Set Up Elementary Classes, Contact Teachers
- High School Students Schedule Sessions
- Each Group Teaches 3 Classes (30 mins.)
- Group Receives Evaluation
Focus of KDF Peer Program

- Teach Youth About Safety
- Positive Role Modeling By Teens
- Internalized Safety Message by Teens
- Reach All Types of Boaters
- Reduce Fatalities
KDF/Boating Safety Resources

- Kids Don’t Float Program Component Packets (Loaner, Peer Education and School Program)
- Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) K-12 Curriculum: “Outdoor Adventures”
- Videos
  - The Test Files (Ohio DNR)
  - Cold, Wet, & Alive (Am. Canoe Assn)
  - It Could Have Been Prevented (AMSEA)
  - Public Service Announcements
The KDF Future

- KDF Loaner Boards at All Harbors/Lakes/Rivers
- Education in All Alaska Schools
- Involvement By All Alaska Communities
- Eliminate Drowning Fatalities
Guidelines for Presenting

- Should be applicable to audience
  - Creating meaning
  - Know your audience
- Be prepared
- Avoid overload
- Also avoid wasting time
Preparing to Teach

The key to confident and effective teaching is preparation

- Know your subject
- Be on time
- Prepare for your environment
- “set up for success”
Questions?
Boating Alaska

The End
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