Kids Don’t Float Program

U. S. Coast Guard

Alaska Dept. of Health & Social Services

State Office of Boating Safety

Alaska Safe Kids

Various Community Coalition Members!
The Need for Kids Don’t Float

- 2002-2006: 87 Boating Fatalities
- Alaska: 10 Times the National Fatality Rate
- 1990-2009: 107 Children & Teens (0-14) Drowned In Alaska
Boating Fatalities

Fatality Number

RBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fatality Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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Fatality Characteristics

- Most fatalities occur in open skiffs or canoes
- Over 90% of fatality victims did not wear a lifejacket (PFD)
- Over half of Alaska drownings occur on lakes & rivers
KDF Program Overview

- Started in Homer by Community Groups
- Based on Kids Don’t Fly (NY City program)
- Converted to Statewide Use in 1997
- Now in Over 500 Sites Statewide
- 2 Program Components
  - Education
  - Lifejacket Loaner Program
- At least 19 lives saved since start of program
Who Is Involved With KDF?

- U.S. Coast Guard
- State of Alaska
  - DHSS, Section of Chronic Disease & Health Promotion
  - DNR, State Office of Boating Safety
- Alaska Safe Kids
- Homer Originating Team
- Community Leaders & Volunteers
KDF Education Program

- Adult Education Curriculum (Manual)
- Youth Education Lesson Plan & Activities
- Peer Educator Program for High School Use
KDF Peer Education Program

- Volunteers Train High School Students
- Trained High School Students Conduct Classes for Elementary School Students
- 1,700 classes taught from 2000-2009
- In 2009 over 11,000 students reached
High School Training

- Set Up Training/Program With Local High School
- Students In Program Get Community Service Credit
- Hold 2-3 Hour Training Regarding PFD Use
- Students Develop Lesson Plans For Elementary Classes
- Hold a Final Organizing Session (provide packets)
- H.S. Students Perform Trainings
Elementary School Training

- High School Students Schedule Sessions
- Each Group Teaches 3 Classes (30 mins.)
- Group Receives Evaluation & Credit
Focus of Kids Don’t Float Education Program

- Teach Youth About Safety
- Positive Role Modeling By Teens
- Reach All Types of Boaters/Swimmers
- Reduce Fatalities
- Learn how to swim
KDF PFD Loaner Program

- Loaner Boards at Harbors/Boat Ramps
- Loaner Board Sponsor
- PFD’s Provided by State or Local Groups
- Boaters Borrow PFD’s and Return After Use
- PFD Loaner Board Use Study Showed Increase in Use
KDF 2010 Loaner Program

- Implemented in 249 Alaskan Communities
- PFD Use 5-1500 Times Per Site
- Program Survey 2001
- Little/No PFD Loss
- Very Positive Program Comments
KDF/Boating Safety Resources

- KDF Program Manual/Kit
- AMSEA Cold Water Kids
- AMSEA Cold Water K-12 Curriculum
- Videos (USCG, DNR, AMSEA)
- Kids Don’t Float – Facebook
The KDF Future

- KDF Loaner Boards at All Harbors/Lakes/Rivers
- Education in All Alaska Schools
- Involvement By All Alaska Communities
- Eliminate Drowning Fatalities
KDF & Boating Safety

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