Kids Don't Float
Loaner Board Program Guide

'PFD Otter says,
"Kids Otter always wear a life jacket while playing in or near the water!!"

GIVE THEM SOMETHING THAT FLOATS!

Life Jacket Loaner Station

10/2007
What’s in the packet?

Introduction to the Kids Don’t Float Program

- Program Information
- Acknowledgement Form
- Contact & Resources

Loaner Program Component

- Loaner Program Checklist
- Sample Loaner Board Rules
- Lifejacket Sign-out Log
- Sample Community Posters
- Loaner Board Building Instructions
- Liability Information
- Community Evaluation Form
History
The Kids Don't Float program was developed in Alaska to respond to the high rate of drowning statewide. The program was initially designed in 1996, through a State of Alaska grant project by a group in Homer, Alaska. Kids Don’t Float was named after a successful program in New York called “Kids Can’t Fly,” which drastically reduced injuries and deaths due to children falling from open windows.

Because of the success of the pilot program, Kids Don’t Float was adopted that following year for statewide use. A coalition of key agencies; State of Alaska, Division of Injury Prevention & EMS, U.S. Coast Guard Seventeenth District, Alaska Safe Kids and Alaska Boating Safety program. Teamed to endeavor to reduce the fatality rate and increase public awareness of child drowning issues.

The Program
The Kids Don’t Float program has two primary components, which include a personal floatation device (PFD) loaner component, and an educational component. Each program component is designed to be stand-alone and can be implemented by interested community groups or individual sponsors.

Loaner component: The KDF loaner program kit comes with an instruction guide and program samples, signs, and PFDs. Sites are established at harbors and public boat access areas and have pegs for loaner lifejackets. Boaters may take appropriate size lifejackets for children who are with them, free of charge. Upon completion of boating activity, boaters return lifejackets to the display/storage board.

Peer Education component: educational program kit includes a packet of materials of a suggested lesson plan, activities for children, and a guide to conduct a high school peer educator program.

The Goals
Program goals of Kids Don’t Float are to increase public awareness of drowning issues, with the outcome of decreasing the fatality rate for childhood drowning. The sponsors’ seeks to change boater behavior, and increase compliance with safe boating practices. A goal for every site is to have it self sustained in which the community values, support and supply the loaner board and/or continuous peer education.

Challenges
Every KDF site sponsor will face the challenge of keeping an adequate supply of life jackets for their board(s). Each site sponsor is encouraged to seek community donations and support and to keep regular communication with the KDF administrator. Preserving the life jackets has also been expressed as a challenge, there are now numerous was of storing your life jackets in which blueprints are available.
Kids Don’t Float Acknowledgement Form

Thank you for making this a viable program in your community, if it weren’t for individuals like you this program would not be as successful as it is today.

To help guide you with this program you will need to remember a few more important things, please review the following and fill out the bottom portion of the form:

By agreeing to be a Kids Don’t Float site sponsor you have specific roles in maintaining any and all of your sites.

1. Visit your site boards occasionally during the season; check on the condition of the board and pfds.
2. At the end of the season count your inventory and store pfds in a dry place.
3. Identify additional sites in your area for a Kids Don’t Float loaner board.
4. Complete annual survey, request for materials and report any “saves” (incidents where a life jacket saved a person from drowning).
5. Let us know of any changes in KDF sponsor contact information.

Every KDF site sponsor will face the challenge of keeping an adequate supply of life jackets for their board(s). As a site sponsor you should try to seek out community donations and support, as the main program sponsors cannot supply new jackets for every board every year.

Consider becoming a Water Safety instructor or a Kids Don’t Float Peer Educator, to emphasize the importance of pfd use and safe boating habits.

Surveys for request of materials and site information updates are available online at www.kidsdontfloat.alaska.gov and mailed out towards the end of the year. Remember that it is very important to provide feedback, lives saved, new site sponsors, and if sites become inactive!

Fax to: Maria Bailey (907) 465-2898 or detach bottom portion and
Mail to: DHSS/DPH/IPEMS, Kids Don’t Float Program, PO Box 110616, Juneau Alaska 99811-0616

Location of site/s:

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Site Establish date: __________ Number of people in community: __________
Main contact name: _______________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________
Mailing address: _________________________________________

Phone: ( )________________ Fax: ( )_____________________
Email: ________________________________________________

Signature & Print name ___________________________ Date ________
Key Coalition Agencies:

**Injury Prevention and EMS.** Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, provides all aspects of administrative support to the KDF program, key contact for establishing new sites and maintains the master KDF site database (over 450 in the state), KDF materials are purchased when funds are available.

**Contact:** Maria Bailey (907) 465-4170, Maria.Bailey@alaska.gov, website: www.kidsdontfloat.gov

**State Office of Boating Safety,** Division of Park and Outdoor Recreation. Provides water safety courses for the public and future instructors, the State Office of Boating Safety purchase the majority of life jackets for KDF sites.

**Contact:** Jeff Johnson jeff_johnson@dnr.state.ak.us

**Seventeenth Coast Guard District.** Promotes safe boating through training for all ages, The Coast Guards also prints and distributes the loaner board signs, and purchase PFDs for sites when funds are available.

**Contact:** Mike Swanson (907)463-2298, Mswanson@cgalaska.uscg.mil

**Alaska SAFE KIDS Coalition** actively promotes and maintains KDF sites in communities around Alaska. KDF has it origins with Homer Safe Kids.

**Contact:** Gordon Glaser (907) 269-3433, Gordon.Glaser@alaska.gov
MODULE 1: PFD LOANER PROGRAM
LOCAL WORKPLAN

Assemble Project Team

PFD Loaner Program Group

Contacts

Harbor Master
City/Borough
Private Harbors
Local Boating Safety Organizations
Contributors
Charitable Organizations
Grantors
Boat/U.S.
PFD Vendors
Volunteers
Local Media

Materials

PFDs
Harbor Signs
PFD Loaner Boards

Activities

Raise Money/Solicit Contributions
Purchase PFDs
Paint and Mount *Kids Don’t Float* signs
Set up Loaner Boards in Harbors
Set up Specialty (Infant) Stations
Organize Safety Days/Harbor Demonstrations
Set up PFD Inspection Schedule
Publicize Program
PROJECT TEAM

PROJECT LEADER –

PROJECT CO-LEADER –

TEAM MEMBER –

TEAM MEMBER –

TEAM MEMBER –

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TEAM MEMBER –
LIST OF PROJECT VENDORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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2.

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9.

10.

11.

12.
SAMPLE

KIDS DON'T FLOAT
LOANER LIFEJACKET RULES

- Borrower assumes all liability for the use or non-use of lifejackets
- Borrower will not hold liable any party involved in the distribution of loaner lifejackets.
- Borrower acknowledges the inherent dangers of water related activities.
- Lifejackets must be returned on time.
- Lifejackets should be returned in good condition.
- Lifejacket must be inspected by the borrower for proper working condition prior to signing them out.
- Lifejackets should be properly fitted to the individual using the P.F.D. (Personal Floatation Device).
- Lifejackets may not be signed out for more than 1 week at a time, unless special arrangements are made prior to the sign-out time.
- Borrowers must adhere to all U.S.C.G. regulations regarding the proper use of P.F.D.’s.
- Any damage to loaner lifejackets must be reported upon return to the sign-out location.
- Any lifejacket damaged while in use should be taken out of service and not returned to use until inspected by qualified personnel.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

SAMPLE

Rules courtesy of Tim Kelahan at “The Rescue Company,” Fairbanks, Alaska
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name: Parent/Guardian</th>
<th>Address: Mailing</th>
<th>Phone: Home Work</th>
<th>Activity Site: #Lifejackets:</th>
<th>Read Rules</th>
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KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

PFD Otter says, “Kids Otter always wear a lifejacket while playing in or near the water!!”

Give Them Something That Floats!
Lifejacket Loaner Station

*Alaska State Law requires youth under 13 to wear a lifejacket while boating.

Sponsored by:
U.S. Coast Guard
Alaska H&SS, Section of Community Health & EMS
Alaska Office of Boating Safety
Alaska Safe Kids

And Your Local Community Sponsor: ____________________________
KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

“PFD OTTER” © 2001

THE RESCUE COMPANY
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
FAIRBANKS U.S.C.G. AUXILIARY
FAIRBANKS SAFE KIDS-STEARNS INC.
BRINGS FAIRBANKS AND THE SURROUNDING AREA
THE “KIDS DON'T FLOAT” LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM

YOU CAN HELP BRING THE PROGRAM TO YOUR AREA.

- Provide a site for the Loaner program sign and materials
- Monitor the sign-out logbook
- Train your staff to the use of the program and equipment
- Call for additional materials when any are lost or damaged.
- Publicize the programs availability in your area.
- HELP us HELP KIDS STAY SAFE!

KIDS DON'T FLOAT

Loaner Lifejackets available at the locations listed below.
Please call for information on the best times for Lifejacket pick-up & drop off!

- **Fairbanks Fire Department**
  - Station #3
  - 1033 Aurora Dr, Fairbanks
  - 459-6569 (Ext. 6659)
  - Mon.-Sun.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **University of Alaska Fire Dept.**
  - Station #1
  - 611 North Chandalar, UAF
  - 474-7721
  - Mon.-Sat.: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **North Star Vol. Fire Dept.**
  - Station #1
  - 2358 Bragway Rd, North Pole
  - 488-3400
  - Mon.-Sat.: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- **Chena Goldstream Vol. Fire Dept.**
  - Station #2
  - 716 Chena Ridge, Fairbanks
  - 479-5672
  - Mon.-Fri.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Steele Vol. Fire Department**
  - Station #2
  - 585 Old Steele Creek Rd, Fairbanks
  - 457-1503
  - Mon.-Fri.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Ester Vol. Fire Department**
  - Station #1
  - 3750 Old Nenana Hwy, Ester
  - 479-6858
  - Mon.-Fri.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Salcha Rescue Squad**
  - Station #1
  - 7153 Richardson Hwy, Salcha
  - 488-5274
  - (Call for times available)

- **Tri-Valley Vol. Fire Department**
  - Station #1
  - 1.5 mile Usibelli Spur Rd, Healy
  - 683-2223
  - (Call for times available)

- **Anderson Vol. Fire Department**
  - Station #1
  - 260 West Main St, Anderson
  - 782-2557
  - (Call for times available)

- **Nenana Vol. Fire Department**
  - Station #1
  - 699 Market St, Nenana
  - 832-5633
  - (Call for times available)

- **Ft. Wainwright Fire Dept.**
  - Station #1
  - Building 3004
  - Montgomery Road
  - Mon.-Sun.: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
How to build a Kids Don’t Float Loaner Board
- Samples -

**Free Standing Board**

![Picture of a kids don't float sign]

**Easy as 1 - 2 - 3**

1. Attach poster to plywood board
2. Add dowels to the bottom for hanging PFDs
3. Securely nail board against wall

**Stand Board**

![Picture of a kids don't float stand board]

**Materials needed for a stand-alone board:**

- 2 - 4" x 4" x 10" (all 2x4 and 4x4 lumber is pressure treated)
- 3 - 4" x 4" x 47" (totaling 3 - 4" x 4" x 8')
- 1 - 2" x 4" x 47"
- 2 - 2" x 4" x 44"
- 2 - 2" x 4" x 37" (angle cut for roof, see drawing)
- 4 - 2" x 4" x 15" (angle cut for roof, see drawing) (totaling 3 - 2" x 4" x 8')
- 1 - 25" x 48" x 3/4" (plywood for Kids Don’t Float sign)

(all plywood sheets can be cut from one 4x8x3/4 sheet)
- 2 - 24" x 48" x 3/4" (plywood for roofing)
- 4 - 10" x 1" (dowels for hanging life vests)

(additional dowels can be offset in backside)
- 12 - 3/8" x 6" lag bolts
- 1/2# - wood screws for fastening roof trusses
- 1/2# - wood screws for fastening roofing sheets

**See next pages for actual building plans**
Kids Don't Float

Eagle Project for:
Chris Husberg

Ground level
Kids Don't Float

Eagle Project for:
Chris Husberg

Ground level

1' - 0''

3' - 3 1/2''

5 1/2'' - 1'0'' - 1'0'' - 1'0'' - 5 1/2''

3' - 0''

10' - 0''
3/8" x 6" lag bolts
(can be counter sunk 1/2")

1" dowels for hanging life vests

3/8" recess (dado joint)

Frame Drawing
Eagle Project for:
Chris Husberg
Kids Don’t Float Loaner Board

Wooden Boxes (Style “C”)

Contact People: S.E.A.K. Women in Fisheries
Mary Todd Andersen 747-8747
Ruth McMaster 747-3523
Wooden Boxes (Style “C”)

Materials:
3/8” Pine
3/8” Plywood
Shingles for roof

Door

Front View

Back View

Hinges

Catch

Side View

Hooks Inside
Kids Don’t Float Loaner Board
Aluminum Boxes (Style “D”)

Materials
4 Boxes
12-86” Long, 2-3” rectangular aluminum tubing (if lengths are longer, more can go into the ground).
14 Bags Redi-Mix Concrete (1 ½ bag per hole)
27 3/8 x 3 ½” bolts
27 nuts
27 lock washers

For Crescent Mounting:
Add: (6) 3/8 x ½” lag screws
(6) 3/8 washers
For mounting supts into 12x12 Bullrail

Contact People:
Mary Todd Anderson
747-8747
Ruth McMaster
747-3523
KIDS DON'T FLOAT!
Lifejacket Loaner Station

Adhered Maine State Law requirements: person under 16 to wear a lifejacket while boating.
SAMPLE

Give Them Something That Floats!
Lifejacket Loaner Station

Alaska State Law requires youth under 13 to wear a lifejacket while boating.

KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE

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<tr>
<td>Jack Flaxion</td>
<td>P.O. Box 432</td>
<td>747-0000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Johnson</td>
<td>1234 Elm St</td>
<td>555-5555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Smith</td>
<td>5432 Oak Ave</td>
<td>444-4444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Davis</td>
<td>6789 Pine Rd</td>
<td>666-6666</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Brown</td>
<td>7890 Maple Ln</td>
<td>777-7777</td>
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Handwritten notes and additional entries on the list.
LIABILITY
KIDS DON'T FLOAT
PFD LOANER PROGRAM

Sooner or later, the issue of liability will come up during your discussion of loaning PFD’s. Typically, a PFD manufacturing company holds an insurance policy that covers up to a certain money amount in the event of product failure or defect resulting in death, injury or property damage.

As the owner of that product, you can request the company to issue you a certificate of insurance so that you can be included under that policy’s coverage, at the company’s expense.

Even so, this does not prevent your agency or any of the dealers or distributors of the PFD’s from being named in a suit. However, a representative at Mustang Survival told us that to date, their company has never been named in any suit.

**This information was provided by National Safe Kids, Mustang Survival, and Sterns Manufacturing Company.**
Kids Don't Float
Community Evaluation Form

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions on how the Kids Don't Float program worked in your community this season.

Please make copies file out if program was active, send form by December of each year.

Community Name: ________________________________
Sponsor Name: __________________________________
Contact Name: ________________________________
Address: _______________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________ Email: __________________

How many locations sponsored by you in this community? #________
Please list sites: (use additional sheet if needed)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Which components of the program were implemented? (circle one-majority, list if other components)

PFD Loaner only  Education only  Both PFD loaner and Education

How many life jackets did your community receive? ____________
How many life jackets are still serviceable? ____________

Do you have any particular success stories or challenges that you faced regarding this program? (Articles and pictures would be appreciated especially for saves that were documented)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Any additional comments or suggestions?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

THANKS for promoting Kids Don't Float and making it a viable program in your community.

Return form to:
Injury Prevention & EMS Attn: Maria Bailey PO Box 110616, Juneau Alaska 99811
Phone: 907-465-4170       Fax 907-465-2898       Email: KDF@health.state.ak.us

9/2005