

# Kids Don't Float Loaner Board Program Guide



**Kids Don't Float!**

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

"PFD OTTER" ©

\*Personal Floatation Device  
Alaska State Law requires youth under 13 to wear a life jacket (PFD) while boating.



## **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

# Kids Don't Float

## Program Overview



### 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 ways 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 pfd's.**
- 2. At the end of the season count your inventory and store pfd's 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](http://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

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Location of site/s:

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Site Establish date: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people in community: \_\_\_\_\_

Main contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature & Print name

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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](mailto:Maria.Bailey@alaska.gov), website: [www.kidsdontfloat.gov](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 –

TEAM MEMBER -

## **LIST OF PROJECT VENDORS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

## **SAMPLE**

### **KIDS DON'T FLOAT LOANER LIFEJACKET RULES**

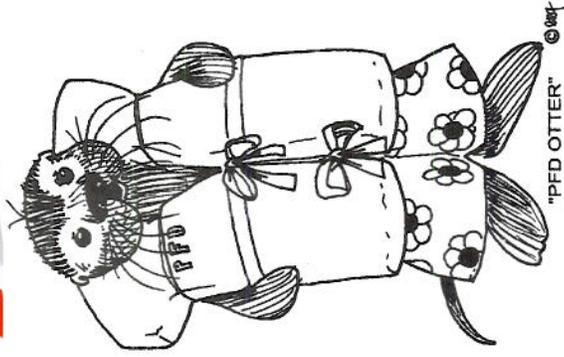
- Borrower assumes all liability for the use or non-use of lifejackets
- Borrower will not hold liable any party involved in the distribution of loaner lifejackets.
- Borrower acknowledges the inherent dangers of water related activities.
- Lifejackets must be returned on time.
- Lifejackets should be 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**



# KIDS DON'T FLOAT!



PFJ 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.

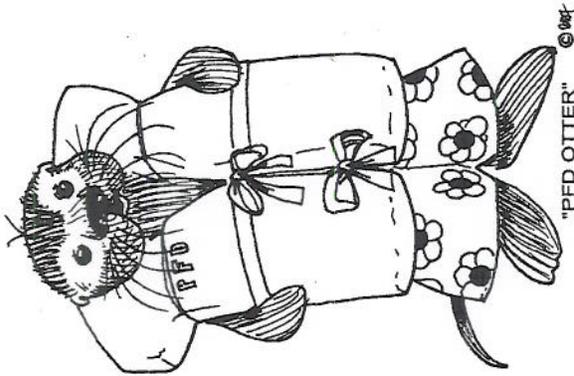
Sponsored by:  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Alaska H&SS, Section of Community Health & EMS  
Alaska Office of Boating Safety  
Alaska Safe Kids



And Your Local Community Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

# KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

SAMPLE



"PFD OTTER" © WCF

THE RESCUE COMPANY  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
FAIRBANKS U.S.C.G. AUXILIARY-FAIRBANKS SAFE KIDS-STEARN'S 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

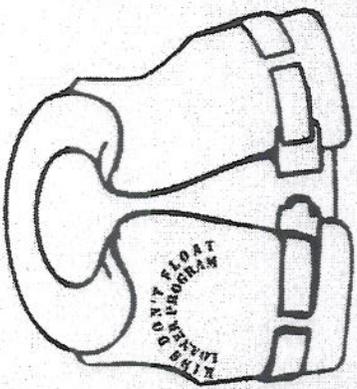
SAMPLE

Loaner Lifejackets available at the locations listed below.

Please call for information on the best times for Lifejacket pick-up & drop off!

SPONSORED BY:

- The Rescue Company
- Alaska Rescue Instructors Assoc.
- Fbks. U.S.C.G. Auxiliary
- Fairbanks Safe Kids
- State E.M.S.



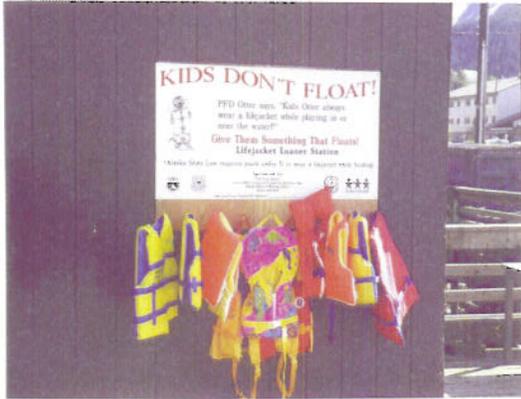
## Local Fire Departments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fairbanks Fire Department Station # 3 1033 Aurora dr. Fbks 459 - 6300 ( Ex# 6650 ) Mon. - Sun. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chena Goldstream Vol. Fire Dept. Station # 2 716 Chena Ridge Fbks 479 - 5672 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tri -Valley Vol. Fire Department Station # 1 1.5 mile Usibelli Spur rd. Healy 683 - 2223 ( call for times available )</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ University of Alaska Fire Dept. Station # 1 611 North Chandalar UAF 474 - 7721 Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Steese Vol. Fire Department Station # 2 585 Old Steele Creek rd. Fbks 457 - 1508 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Anderson Vol. Fire Department Station # 1 260 West Main St. Anderson 582 - 2557 ( call for times available )</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ North Star Vol. Fire Dept. Station # 1 2358 Broadway Rd. North Pole 488 - 3400 Mon. - Sun. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ester Vol. Fire Department Station # 1 3750 Old Nenana Hwy. Ester 479 - 6858 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Nenana Vol. Fire Department Station # 1 609 Market st. Nenana 832 - 5632 ( call for times available )</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ North Pole Fire Department Station # 1 1st &amp; Lewis, North Pole 488 - 0444 Mon. - Sun. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Salcha Rescue Squad Station # 1 7153 Richardson Hwy. Salcha 488 - 5274 ( call for times available )</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ft. Wainwright Fire Dept. Station # 1 Building 3004 Montgomery road Mon. - Sun. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.</li> </ul>

# How to build a Kids Don't Float Loaner Board

## - Samples -

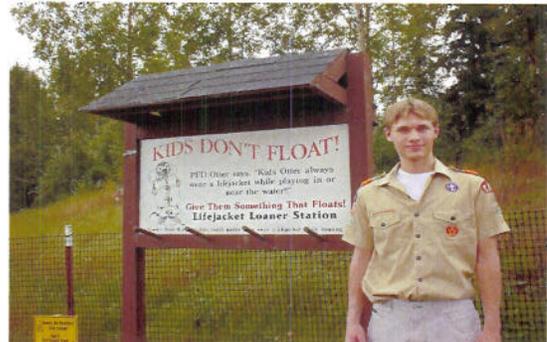
### Free Standing Board



Easy as 1 - 2 - 3

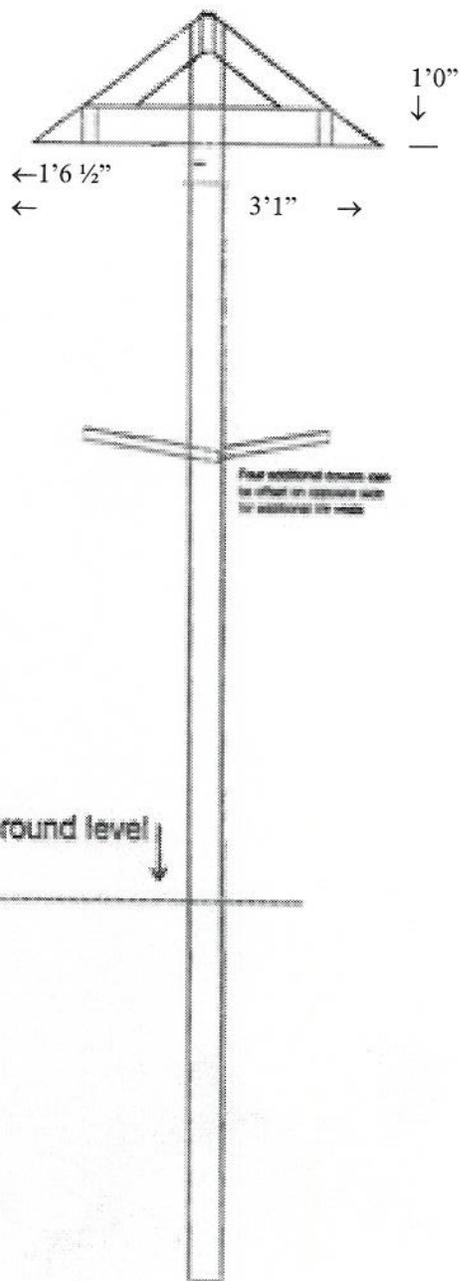
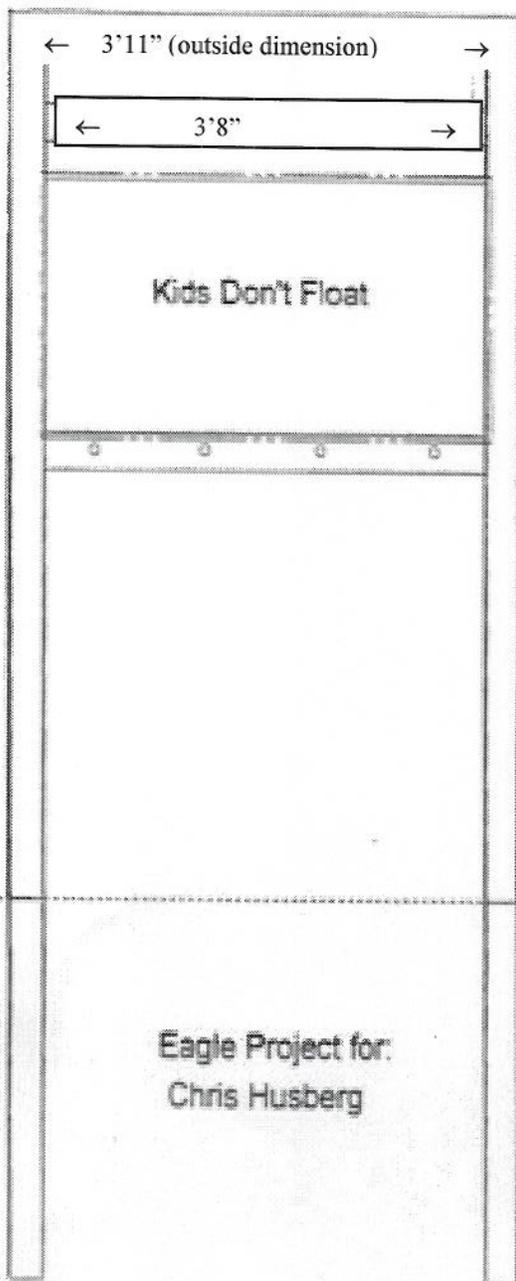
1. Attach poster to plywood board
2. Add dowels to the bottom for hanging PFDs
3. Securely nail board against wall

### Stand Board



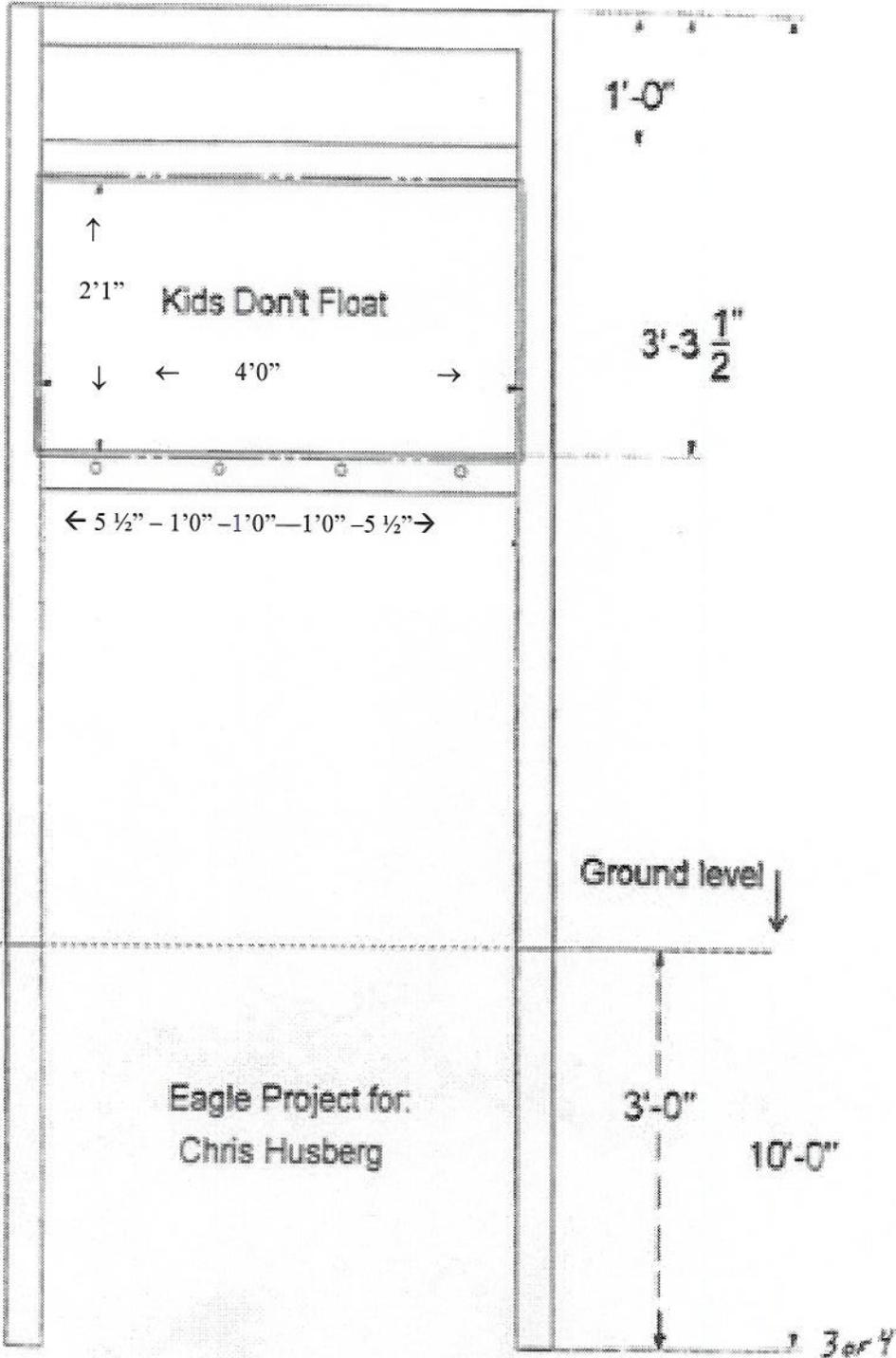
#### **Materials needed for a stand-alone board:**

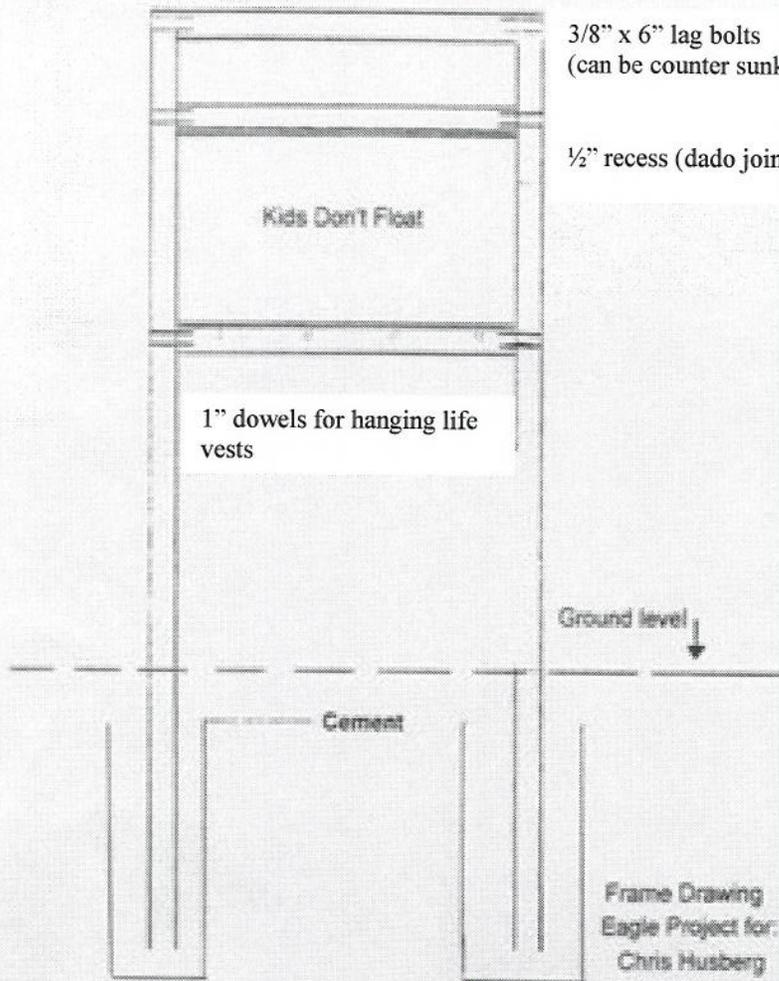
- 2 - 4" x 4" x 10" (all 2x4 and 4x4 lumber is pressure treated)
  - 3 - 4" x 4" x 47" (totaling 3 - 4" x 4" x 8')
  - 1 - 2" x 4" x 47"
  - 2 - 2" x 4" x 44"
  - 2 - 2" x 4" x 37" (angle cut for roof, see drawing)
  - 4 - 2" x 4" x 15" (angle cut for roof, see drawing) (totaling 3 - 2" x 4" x 8')
  - 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**



2 or 4

← 4'-6" →  
\* ← 3'-11" → \*





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

1/2" recess (dado joint)

1" dowels for hanging life vests

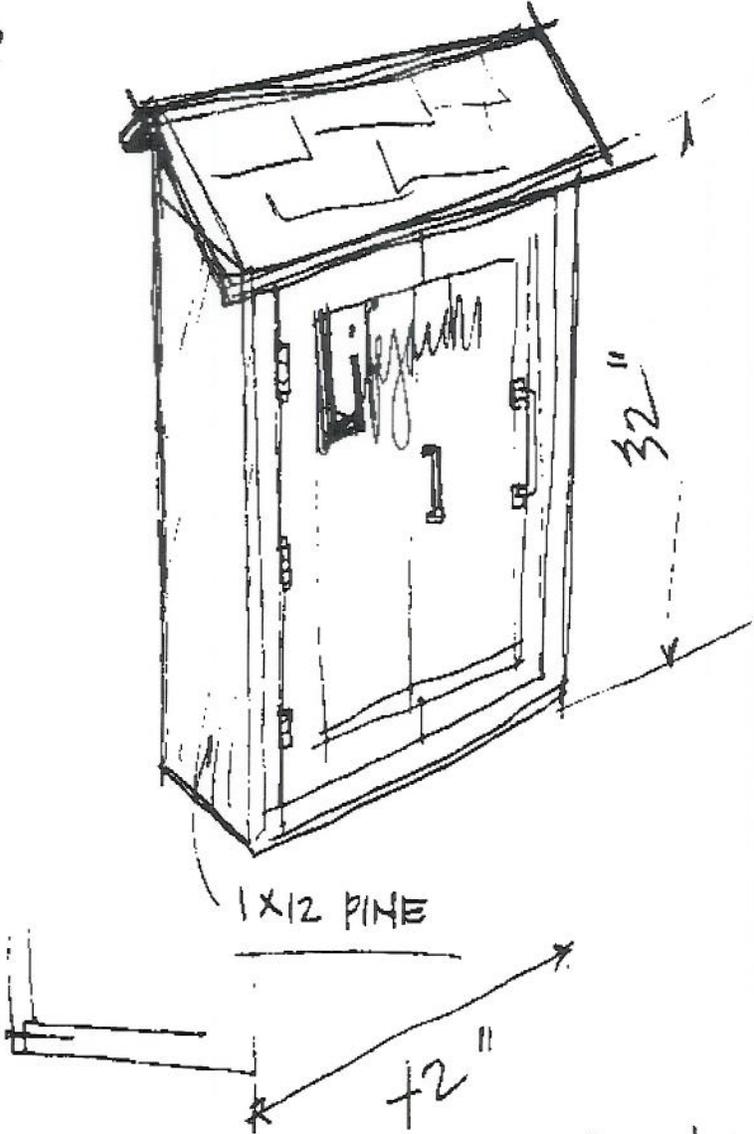
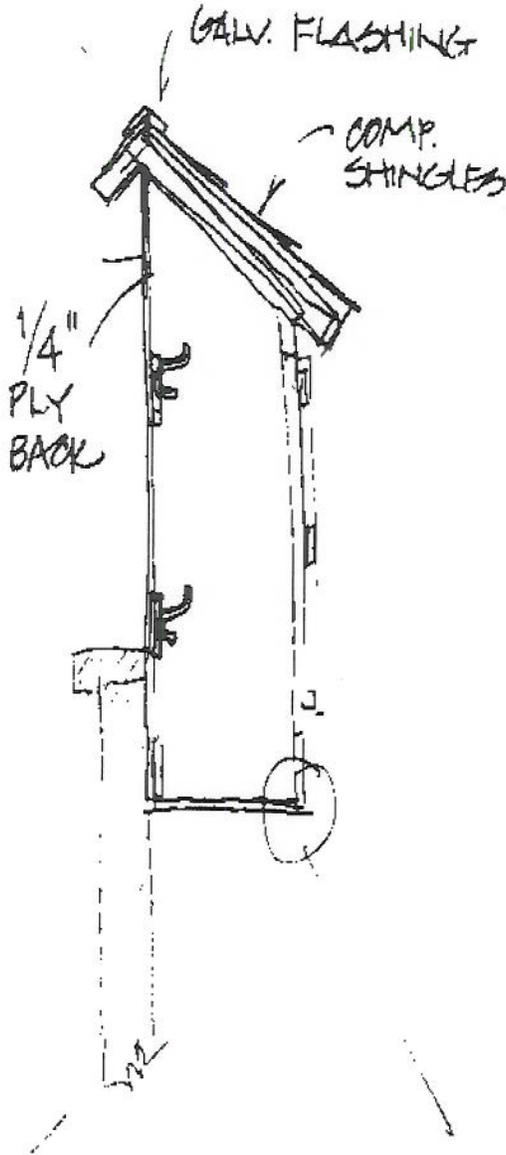
Ground level ↓

Cement

Frame Drawing  
Eagle Project for:  
Chris Husberg

# Kids Don't Float Loaner Board

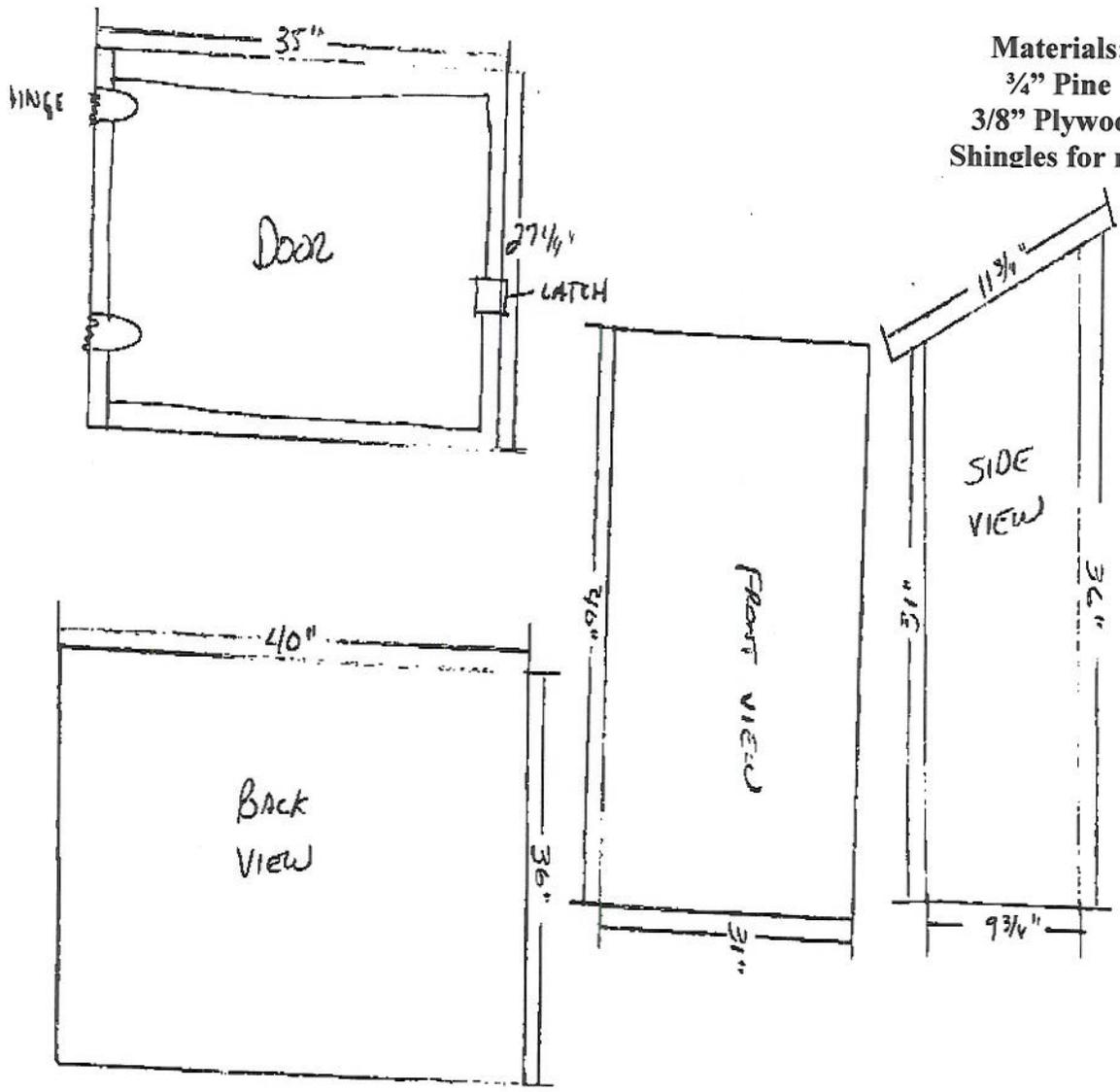
## Wooden Boxes (Style "C")



Contact People: S.E.A.K. Women in Fisheries  
Mary Todd Andersen 747-8747  
Ruth McMaster 747-3523

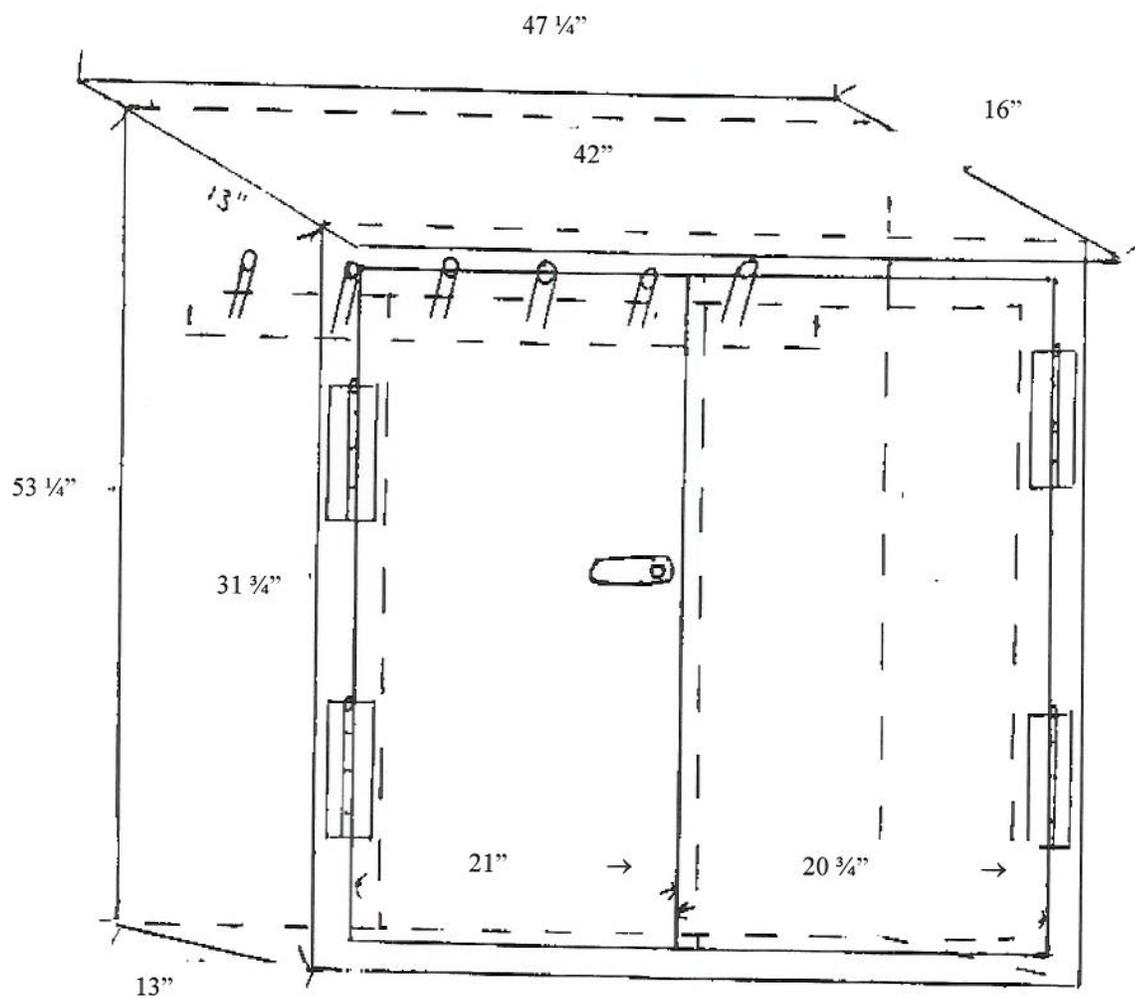
# Wooden Boxes (Style "C")

Materials:  
3/4" Pine  
3/8" Plywood  
Shingles for roof



Hooks INSIDE

Kids Don't Float Loaner Board  
Aluminum Boxes (Style "D")  
Designed by Allen Marine Inc. Sitka, AK



# 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 1/2 bag per hole)

27 3/8 x 3 1/2" bolts

27 nuts

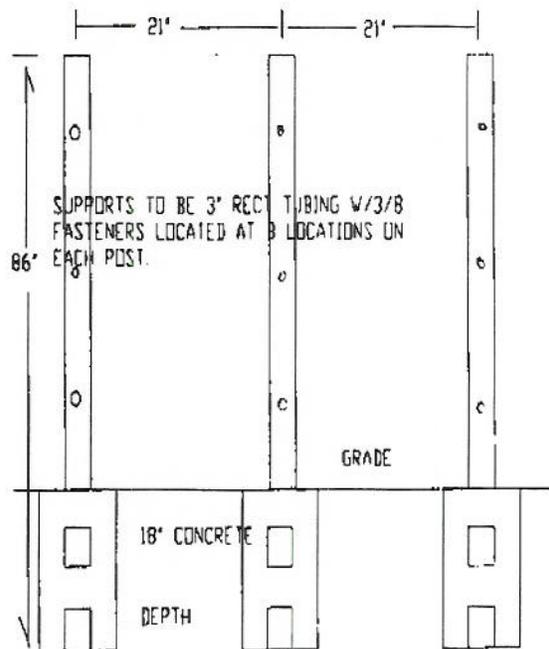
27 lock washers

For Crescent Mounting:

Add: (6) 3/8 x 1/2" lag screws

(6) 3/8 washers

For mounting supts into 12x12 Bullrail 1



Contact People:

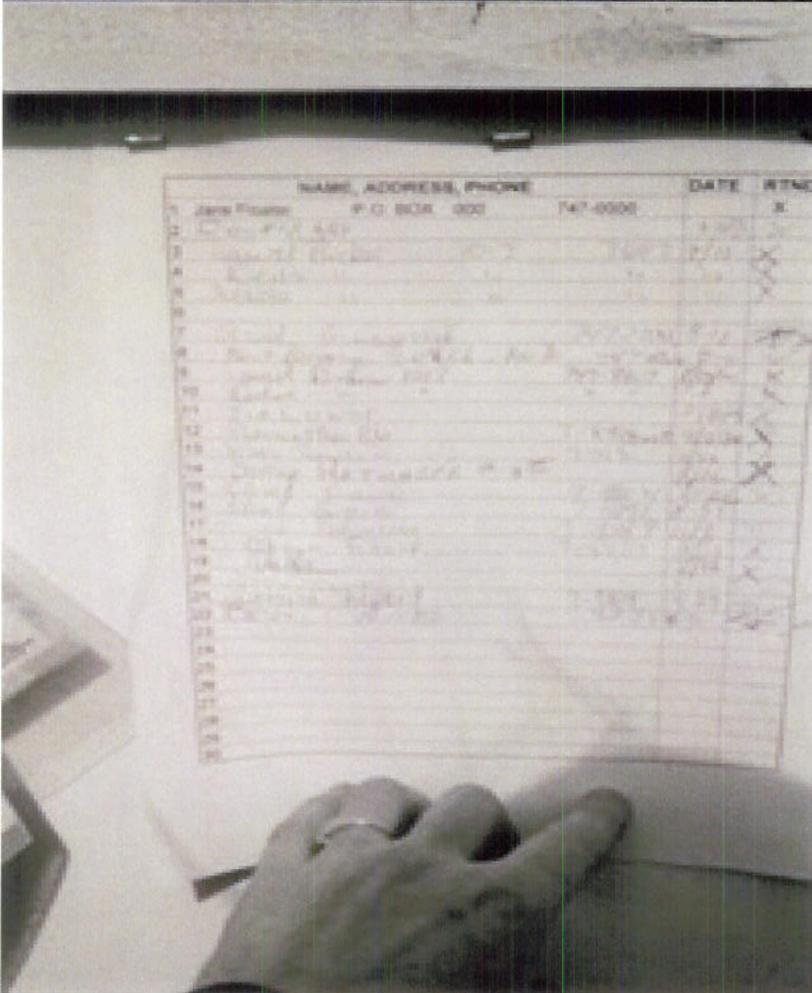
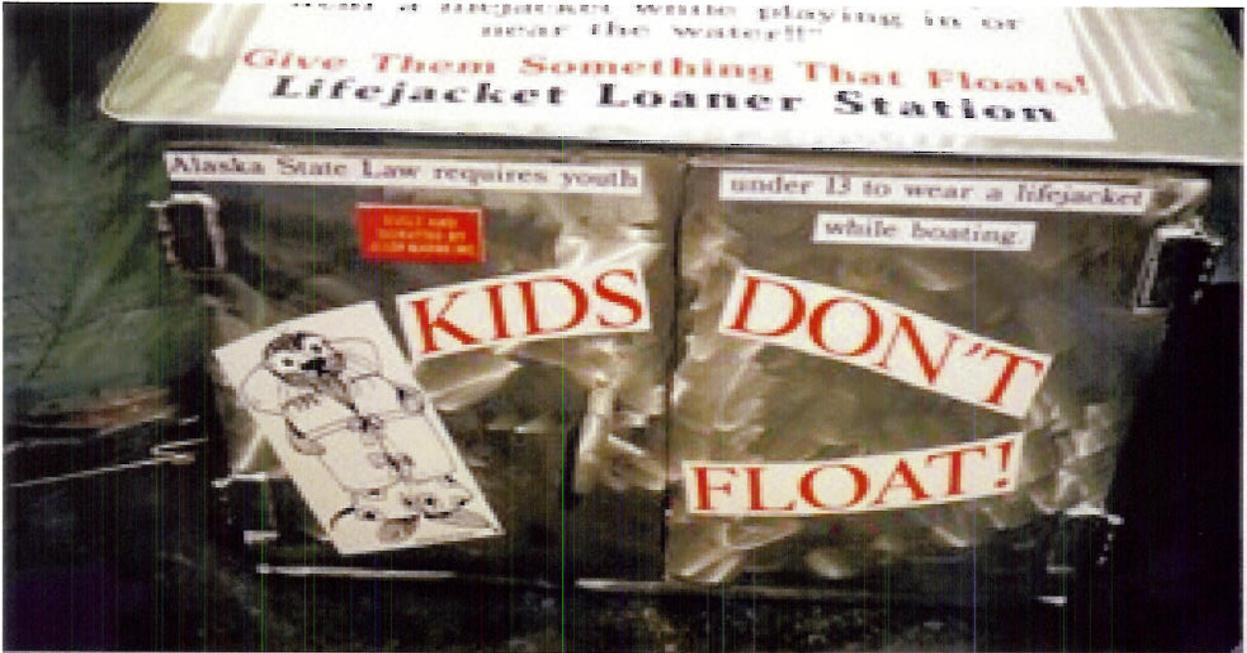
Mary Todd Anderson  
747-8747

Ruth McMaster  
747-3523

SAMPLE



SAMPLE



## LIABILITY

### KIDS DON'T FLOAT PFD LOANER PROGRAM

Sooner or later, the issue of liability will come u 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](mailto:KDF@health.state.ak.us)