

## CUA SAFETY ORIENTATION REQUIREMENT

# WATER SAFETY INFORMATION

OVER 79 PEOPLE HAVE DROWNED ON THE UPPER DELWARE RIVER SINCE 1980.

**NONE OF THEM WERE WEARING A PROPERLY FITTED LIFE JACKET.**

**Wear your life jacket, it can save your life.**

- Children 12 and younger must wear a life jacket all the time and in every vessel, including inner tubes.
- It is strongly recommended that everyone wear their life jackets as the unexpected can happen and you can fall into the river.
- Never use your life jacket to tie boats together.

**There is no safe place to swim in the river. The Delaware River has strong currents, slippery surfaces, and steep drop offs under water. If you chose to swim in the river:**

- Always wear your life jacket as river hazards, like currents and steep drop offs, are difficult to see.
- Swim with the current towards shore. Do not attempt to swim against the current; fast-moving water can fatigue even the strongest of swimmers.
- Never swim alone; bring a buddy with you

**If you capsize your vessel:**

- Stay behind your boat as it floats downstream to avoid it from hitting you. Your boat and belongings can be recovered later, always save people first.
- Feet first and point your toes to the sky. Lay on your back, with your feet in line with your body and floating down river to fend off rocks.
- Use your arms to steer yourself to shore.
- Never attempt to stand in the rapids or fast-moving water. Your foot can become trapped between rocks and the force of the water can push and hold you under.

**Alcohol and drug use while boating increase your risk of drowning.**

- Alcohol and drugs impair your judgement.
- Limit your consumption of alcohol while boating or swimming on the river.
- Alcohol and drugs cause dehydration increasing your risk of heat illness.
- Underage drinking will result in a ticket.
- Marijuana and other drugs are illegal to possess or use on the river and on federal land.

**Glass bottles or containers are prohibited on the river, and all trash must be removed.**

- Broken bottles or containers are difficult to remove from the river, and can cause serious injury to boaters, fisherman, and wildlife.
- You will be ticketed if you are in possession of glass or leave litter behind.
- Carry in/ Carry out: Leave with everything you brought.

**Exiting early from the river:**

- Respect private property; do not pull off the river near homes or businesses unless in an emergency.
- Public access options are limited.
- If you cannot complete your trip, contact the rental business immediately.

**River strainers:**

- Stay clear of fallen trees and branches in the river.
- River strainers pose a serious risk of trapping you underwater.
- Do not approach areas near strainers as the strong current can pull you under the strainer.

**In the event of a medical emergency, lost person, or drowning.**

- Call 911 and remain calm to provide clear information.
- Identify your location by identifying landmarks in your surroundings (e.g., a bridge, house, or public access point) or use your cellphone to get a pin location to assist search and rescue.
- If possible, designate someone to meet emergency responders at a visible location to guide them to your exact location.