Swimming

- Never swim alone. Exhaustion, cramps or sudden illness can overcome the best of swimmers.
- Never swim when overheated.
- Practice staying afloat with clothes on. Many drownings occur as a result of falling from a boat or steep bank.
- Small children and non-swimmers should always wear a life jacket and be accompanied by good swimmers.

Skin and Scuba Diving

- Seek instructions from qualified divers before participating in the sport.
- Have a current medical checkup.
- Never dive by yourself.

Water Skiing

- Wear a life jacket.
- Watch the water ahead of you at all times.
- Have an extra person aboard to watch and assist the skier.
- Run parallel to shore and come in slowly when landing. Sit down if coming in too fast.
- Use proper hand signals to signal boat operator.
- Do not ski at night or in restricted areas.

Boating

- Do not overpower or overload your boat.
- Maintain all required equipment in good working condition. Check state and federal laws.
- The law requires Coast Guard approved life jackets. Be water wise and wear yours while afloat.
- If your boat capsizes or swamps, hang onto it. Do not try to swim to shore.
- Always stay alert for other boats, swimmers, fishermen, water skiers and partially submerged logs.
- Obey all buoy markers. They are for your personal safety.
- Fire is a serious boating hazard. Obey all fire safety rules when filling with gasoline.
- Stay ashore in threatening weather. If you are caught in foul weather:
  - -Reduce speed and head into waves at a slight angle. Seat passengers on bottom of boat near centerline. Make for nearest safe shore and wait the weather out.
  - -If engine fails, trail a sea anchor from bow. A minnow bucket, pair of pants with legs knotted, piece of cloth fashioned as a parachute will work.
- Equip your boat with a first aid kit, including a snakebite kit.
- Carry ample amounts of gas, enough for your personal needs and to aid others.
- Always inform another person of your boating intentions - where you are going and when you intend to return. This will be a possible means of rescue if trouble develops.
- If you are stranded on shore at night, signal for help by building a safe fire of driftwood or dead grass. Be sure you do not start a prairie fire while doing this.

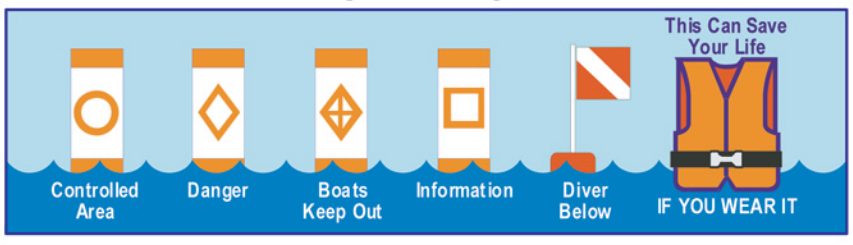
General Assistance

- Further assistance may be obtained by contacting the agencies listed on the final page of this guide.

Reservoir Navigation Marker System

Approved by the U.S. Coast Guard

Know and Obey All Buoys and Markers



All federal lands at Lake Sharpe are governed by the regulations set forth in Title 36, Section 327. Copies of the "Rules and Regulations" are available at the project office and on bulletin boards on federal lands.