

# SAFETY CHECKLISTS

## CANOEING AND PADDLESPORTS

### *Required By Law:*

- ✓ *An approved, wearable life jacket for each person must be readily accessible. Throw cushions do not meet this requirement.*
  - ✓ *Persons 12 and under must wear a life jacket while underway. Drifting is considered underway.*
  - ✓ *Do NOT overload your boat.*
  - ✓ *Boaters must use running lights after sunset or during restricted visibility if boat is propelled by motor (gas or electric). Canoes and paddlers must exhibit a white light or lantern after sunset or during times of restricted visibility.*
  - ✓ *Boater's state registration card must be on board if boat is propelled by motor (gas or electric).*
  - ✓ *A fishing license is required by all persons 13 years or older attempting to take fish.*
  - ✓ *Do not litter. It is unlawful to throw or sink litter from a boat. In the event that a boat turns over, all contents must be retrieved.*
- ✓ *It is unlawful to use or be in possession of drugs or controlled substances while boating or paddling.*
  - ✓ *Use or possession of alcohol by individuals who are underage is prohibited.*

### *Other:*

- ✓ *It is extremely dangerous to climb rock bluffs or trees and jump or dive into the water. Serious injury or death may occur.*
- ✓ *On rivers, stay clear of trees that have fallen and extend into the water. These are called strainers and are very dangerous.*
- ✓ *Stay clear of low head dams with water flowing over the top. These produce life-threatening churning currents on the downstream side.*

## **WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!**

**80% OF DROWNING VICTIMS IN BOATING ACCIDENTS  
WERE NOT WEARING A LIFE JACKET.**

**For more enjoyable and safe boating, take a boating safety course.**

**For more information contact:**

**BOATING DIVISION**

**TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY**

**STATE: 1-800-799-4890**

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE: 1-800-624-7406**

**[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)**

