

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs) AND LIFE-JACKETS – CARE AND MAINTENANCE

SAVE A LIFE –
YOURS.
WEAR A PFD.



Maintaining your flotation device

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for specific care and maintenance requirements. I
- Inspect your PFD or life-jacket before you wear it to ensure it is in good condition. Check for:
 - ▶ Metal or plastic hardware that is broken, deformed or weakened by corrosion.
 - ▶ Webbing or straps that are ripped, torn, or that have become separated from an attachment point.
 - ▶ Any rotted or deteriorated material that fails when tugged.
 - ▶ Rips, tears or open seams in fabric or coatings that are large enough to allow the loss of buoyant material.
 - ▶ Buoyant material that has become:
 - hardened
 - non-resilient
 - permanently compressed
 - waterlogged
 - oil-soaked
 - ▶ Buoyant material that shows evidence of fungus or mildew.
 - ▶ Loss of buoyant material or buoyant material that is not securely held in position.
- Report damaged PFDs or life-jackets to your supervisor or vessel master and never wear damaged PFDs and life-jackets.
- Properly clean, maintain and store your PFD or life-jacket:
 - ▶ Use only a mild soapy solution for cleaning.
 - ▶ Never use dry-cleaning, strong detergents, gasoline or solvent to remove stains.
 - ▶ Never store a wet PFD or life-jacket; dry it first in the open air, away from sunlight or a direct heat source.
 - ▶ When not in use, store your PFD or life-jacket in a dry, well-ventilated, easily accessible place on board the vessel.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for inspection, maintenance and recharging of mechanisms in auto-inflating models.
- Record all inspections and maintenance if your PFD or life-jacket is automatically inflatable.



Look after your flotation device so it will look after you when it is needed.