



MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Media Planning Purposes:
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WATER SAFETY MEDIA EVENT PLANNED FOR HARTWELL LAKE

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA – With five drowning deaths already this year at [Savannah District](#) reservoirs, the U.S. [Army Corps of Engineers' Hartwell Lake Office](#), Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will host a **BOATING AND WATER SAFETY MEDIA** opportunity for media representatives only, Friday, May 28 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Media can arrive anytime during this period.)

The three agencies will hold this event in advance of one of Hartwell Lakes' busiest boating weekends of the year, Memorial Day Weekend, the kick-off for the summer recreation season. Each year boating and swimming on area lakes claim the lives of area residents. In the past 10 years there have been 80 drowning deaths on Savannah River lakes. Only one person of that number wore a life jacket.

This event provides the media an opportunity to gain footage, photos, and storylines to be used now or throughout the recreation season to educate the public and to help diminish water-related injuries and fatalities. Experts will be on hand to explain differences in state laws, the perils of drinking alcohol while boating, boating equipment requirements, boater education, the importance of wearing a life jacket and other boating and water safety issues. Rangers from the Corps of Engineers will emphasize the ["Wear It!" campaign](#) to encourage people to wear life jackets when in, on, or near the water. In addition, a patrol boat will be available to take the media out for footage and photos.

Where: Big Oaks Recreation Area (next to the boat ramp)

Directions: Big Oaks Recreation Area is located on U.S. Hwy 29 in Hart County, Ga., next to the Hartwell Lake Office and Visitor Center overlooking the Hartwell Dam.

From South Carolina, follow US Hwy. 29 into Georgia, Big Oaks is located approximately one mile past the Georgia/South Carolina state line on the right side of the road. (There is a sign).

From Georgia, Big Oaks is located approximately six miles from the City of Hartwell, Ga. Following US Hwy 29 North out of Hartwell, Big Oaks will be on the left (there is a sign) just past the Hartwell Lake Operation Manager's Office and Visitor Center.

For more information, contact Park Ranger Tanya Grant of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 706-856-0323 or toll-free at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 323.

The Corps of Engineers and other agencies consider the media vital to water and boating safety education and saving lives on area reservoirs.

