

This memorandum is posted here as some of the recommendations may prove beneficial to the Consultant community. The suggestions made herein are not intended to override OSHA standards for safety.

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Ayodele Oshilaja, Jack Evans, Hossein Abedini, Harshad Ringwala,
Mahesh K. Patel, and Harjit Bal

FROM: *for* Gregory T. Renman, Manager *Make*
Structural Evaluation and Bridge Management

DATE: July 13, 2015

PHONE: 5-3572

SUBJECT: Waterway Rules & Boat Safety

Please note the list of rules to follow while inspecting bridges over the waterways with a boat or using chest waders.

- Always wear a life jacket (personal flotation device), and if possible, know how to swim
- Check to make sure that all the required gear is available and is in good working condition (ropes, anchor, motor, fuel, and other safety devices)
- Plan ahead of time for high / low tides, and for any severe weather conditions forecasted, etc.
- Observe site and waterway conditions for safety before launching your boat
- Never go in a boat alone; bring along at least one other person. Become familiar with the waterway
- If the motor fails, throw out the anchor until you get the situation under control.
- Never overload the craft and distribute weight evenly. (Each boat lists its capacity for weight and number of persons)
- If you stand in a boat, keep your weight low and centered. Standing up or moving around in a small boat can cause it to capsize. If you capsize, remain with the boat – it floats.
- Stay alert at all times. Be aware of your surroundings, including nearby powerboats
- Never use the boat or wade in a waterway during a lightning storm.

- Know the weather conditions before you head out. Watch the weather and stay close to shore. Head for shore if the waves increase.
- Make sure your boat motor has a "kill switch"
- Completion of a boating safety course is required for all boat operators
- Carry a wading pole for extra support in the current and to probe for hidden deep spots.
- Consider tying off at waterways with current or rocky stream beds.
- Wear a belt around your waist, outside of your chest waders. It will prevent water from rushing in if your chest waders overtop.
- Don't wear hip boots or chest waders in the boat.
- Never anchor from the stern. Always anchor from the bow (front).
- Bring your cell phone along in a waterproof, re-closable bag. You can use the phone without removing it from the bag.

These are just some of the rules to follow. Doug Tintle will start planning to get the NJ Boating Safety Classes on board for all new staff and others that have not taken the course. If you had the course, open the manual and refresh your memory. Bottom line - Safety First!

GTR/BF

c: Naganath B. Kasbekar, P.E., John B. Evans, Mujahid Khan