



US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY LAKE NORMAN

WHAT TYPE ARE YOU?

The importance of wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD), is often overlooked. Most drowning occur in rough seas, alone, lost, and surrounded by sharks, right? Wrong! 9 out of 10 drowning's occur in inland waters within a few feet of safety. Today's technology and fashion have combined to create a PFD that fits better, looks better, and easy to move around in.

In this 5 part series we will feature a different type of PFD and the uses for each one. Today we begin with the Type III Vest this is the most common PDF and widely versatile for water activities.

FLotation AID (TYPE III PFD)

Good for calm, inland water, or where there is good chance of fast rescue.

Advantages

- Generally the most comfortable type for continuous wear.
- Designed for General Boating or the activity that is marked on the device.
- Available in many styles, including vests and flotation coats.

Disadvantages

- Wearer may have to tilt head back to avoid going face-down.
- In rough water, a wearer's face may often be covered by waves.
- Not for extended survival in rough water.

Sizes

- Many individual sizes from Child-Small through Adult.

A Flotation Aid (Type III PFD) is:

- Designed to provide a stable face-up position in calm water for a wearer floating with head tilted back.
- Available in a wide variety of styles.
- Available in many sizes for good fit.

Intended Uses

- General boating or the activity that is marked on the device such as skiing, hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and others.
- Good for calm, inland waters, or where there is a good chance for fast rescue.
- Designed so that wearing it will complement your boating activities.

Advantages

- Should be comfortable enough to wear for extended periods.
- A wide variety of designs for specialized boating activities.
- Available in bright colors so you can be easily spotted in the water.

Disadvantages

- Wearer may have to tilt head back to avoid going face-down.
- Will not hold the face of an unconscious wearer clear of the water.
- In rough water, a wearer's face may often be covered by waves.
- Not for extended survival in rough water.

Type 1 Vest. If you have ever been on a cruise, these PDF's are frequently seen during muster drills prior to leaving port. This vest is the most buoyant with 22 lbs of buoyancy. If you plan on being in rough seas and miles away from shore, a Type I vest is ideal.

OFF-SHORE LIFE JACKET (TYPE I PFD)

Best for open, rough or remote water, where rescue may be slow coming.

Advantages

- Floats you the best.
- Turns most unconscious wearers face-up in water.
- Highly visible color.

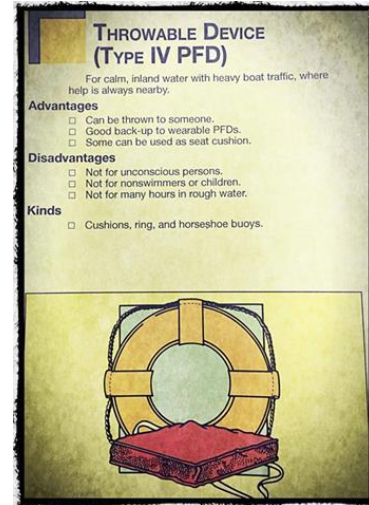
Disadvantages

- Bulky.

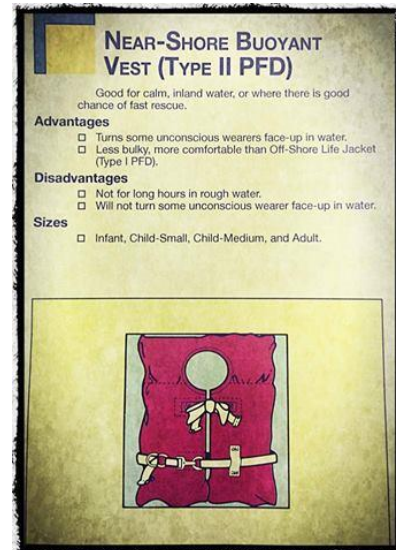
Sizes

- Two sizes to fit most children and adults.

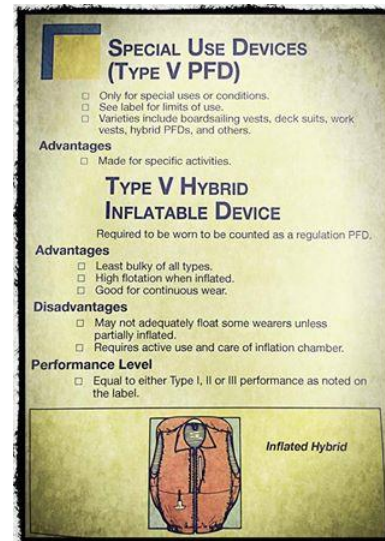
Type IV throwable. Most Type IV throwable are ring buoys, throw rope, cushions, and horse shoe buoy. If you do not own a Type IV throwable look for other buoyant objects in your vessel that could be used to help a distressed swimmer. Such as; empty cooler, bumpers, spare life jacket, pool noodle and tubes. These items are not deemed lifesaving but can help a distressed swimmer stay afloat until proper rescue maneuvers can be performed.



Type II Vest. This "classic horseshoe shaped" PFD is for calm inland water where there is chance of fast rescue. It is less bulky and less expensive than a Type I, and many will turn an unconscious person face-up in the water.



Type V vest. Often seen by lake enforcement officers and USCG patrol the Type V Vest is less bulky when deflated and allows for more range of motion. The vest can be inflated by a charged chamber that reacts to water, a manual pull tab or an oral inflation valve. This type of vest should be worn by persons with superior swimming skills and are in an environment in which they can activate the PFD quickly. The major disadvantage to this PFD is the inability to keep an unconscious swimmer face up in water.



Any questions on choosing a PFD for you or your family please contact Flotilla 26-01 via Facebook our website or phone!

704-633-3333 www.cgauxlkn.com