



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tube Kiting Banned on Baltimore District Lakes

BALTIMORE, MD — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District has imposed an immediate ban on a new extreme water sport known as tube kiting. This ban is in accord with many other Corps lakes around the nation.

Tube kiting activity is immediately prohibited on the following Corps lakes in the Baltimore District:

Raystown
Tioga-Hammond
Cowanesque
Curwensville
Foster Joseph Sayers
Jennings Randolph

Pulled behind a boat at speeds between 25-35 mph, the cloth-bottomed tube kite is intended to rise into the air, giving the rider an aerial thrill. Unfortunately, the circular tube kites, which are roughly shaped like a large-size child's wading pool, can be highly unstable in the air. In a number of incidents riders have been suddenly thrown into the water at dangerous speeds and from significant heights – the devices can sail 35-50 feet above the water surface. The device can be difficult to control and can be suddenly upended or destabilized by wind gusts or plunge out of the air by a slowing or stopping boat.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has recorded two deaths and issued a warning on June 30 regarding this device. Sportsstuff, one of two major manufacturers, has withdrawn the Wego Kite Tube (Model 53-5000) from the market and is undertaking a voluntary recall.

END

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>