

PFDs (Personal Flotation Devices or Life Jackets)

- You must have PFDs aboard any vessel, including paddlecraft,
 - that are readily accessible (preferably worn - if you end up in the water, the last thing you want to be concentrating on is how to get the jacket on. Try it under a controlled situation to find out how difficult it is to put on in deep water!)
 - one for each person aboard
 - most Type V's must be worn to be counted
 - read the labels in inflatables; some must be worn to be counted
- When purchasing PFDs, consider their **visibility**. Bright orange and yellow are highly visible resulting in faster rescue. Many popular jackets sold today are blue, green, camouflage, or even red; these are very difficult for rescuers to see.
- Some PFDs have a “crash” rating in terms of mph. This only means the PFD will float after a crash at that speed, not that the wearer will survive.



Type I



Type II



Type III



Inflatable



Infant PFD, with collar
and crotch strap



don't forget your pet

Links for more information that could save your life or the life of a loved one:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5214/pfdselection.asp>

http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/life_jacket_wear_wearing_your_life_jacket.aspx