



Model Performance in Fire Prevention

**WSAFM Fire Prevention
Institute 2014**

Swimsafe

Dina Sutherland

East Pierce Fire & Rescue

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Problem

- Annual drownings at the two public parks on Lake Tapps
- Lack of PFD use
- Unaware of cold water affects



Goals

- Reduce drownings
- Increase PFD use
- Create awareness of cold water incapacitation



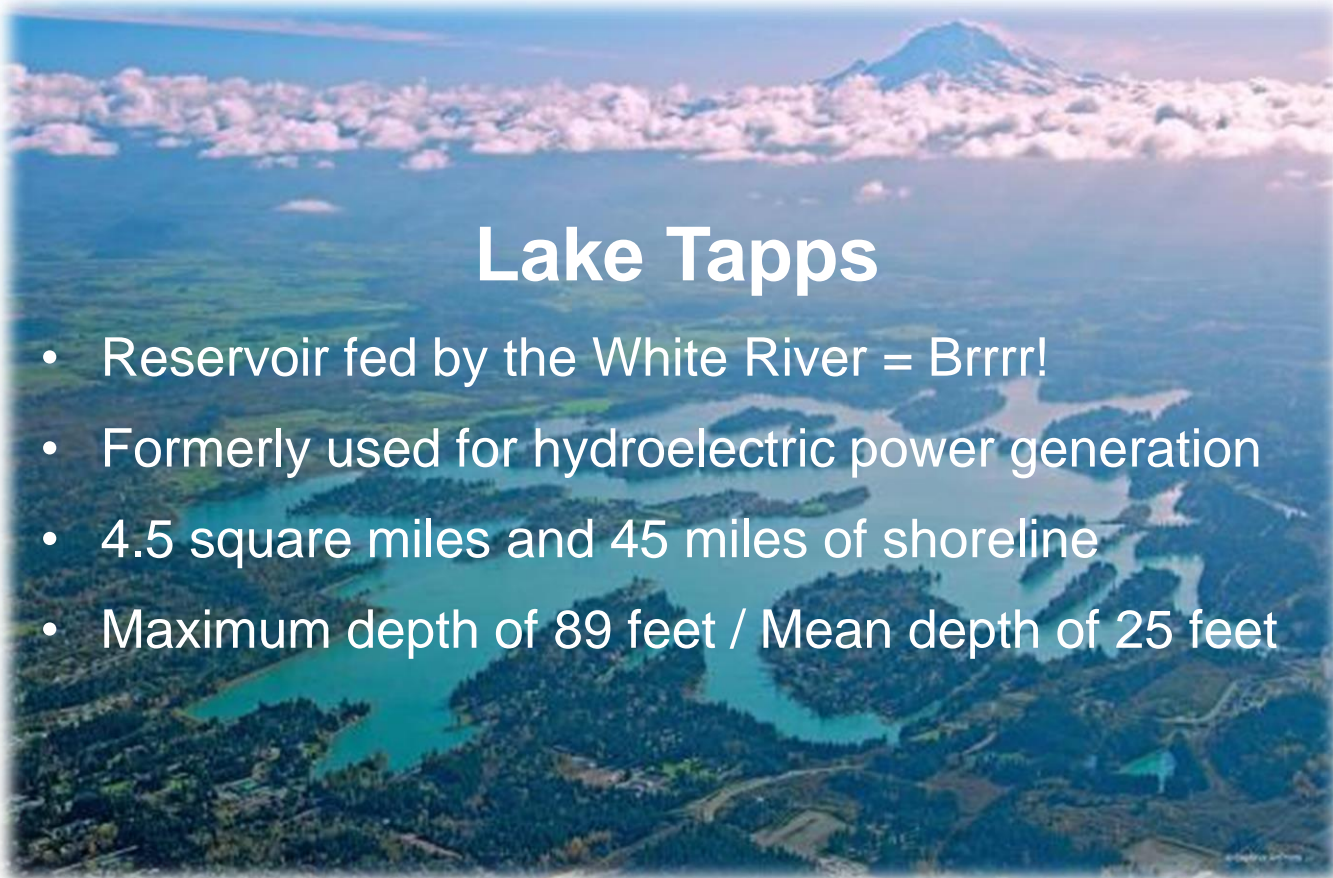
Objectives

- Implement water safety education in schools
- Establish widespread marketing of PFD loaners/sales
- Create consistent messaging
- Saturate community with Swimsafe presence



FORMATIVE EVALUATION

The Problem



Lake Tapps

- Reservoir fed by the White River = Brrrr!
- Formerly used for hydroelectric power generation
- 4.5 square miles and 45 miles of shoreline
- Maximum depth of 89 feet / Mean depth of 25 feet



The Problem

- Lake Tapps North Park
 - Pierce County
 - 80-acres
 - 10,000 feet of waterfront
- Allan Yorke Park
 - City of Bonney Lake
 - 32-acres
 - 600-feet of waterfront



The Problem

- At least **one** drowning/year
- Have had **three** drownings/year
- Glacial-fed water cause of most drownings



The Problem

- Victims typically
 - are male between 15-24 years
 - are from out of the area or state
 - not wearing PFD
 - drown at North Park..... *Until*



June 21, 2012

- Local teen drowns on last day of school
- First documented drowning at Allan Yorke Park

COURIER-HERALD

NEWS

Bonney Lake High sophomore drowns in Lake Tapps

by **DANIEL NASH**, Bonney Lake-Summer Courier-Herald Reporter
Jun 21, 2012 at 3:00PM updated Jun 22, 2013 at 12:27PM

On-scene reporting from Brian Beckley.

The last day of school ended in tragedy Thursday with the drowning death of a Bonney Lake High School student.

Sixteen-year-old Quentin Boggan was with friends on the Allan Yorke park dock when he fell into the water. Witnesses on scene said he was underwater for 3-5 minutes before being pulled shoreside.

Bystanders began CPR before East Piece Fire and Rescue arrived on scene to continue resuscitation. Rescue workers were able to regain a pulse, and the boy was attempting to breathe on his own when he was transported to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Tacoma. He died shortly thereafter.

Boggan had just finished his freshman year of high school.

A fellow student wrote on his [Tumblr page](#):

"This afternoon my school lost a life. The last day of school is supposed to be a happy and fun time and it was until we learned that Quentin Boggan was pronounced dead at teh hospital after nearly drowning in the lake near my house. I didn't know him very well, but the death hits me hard. It was his last day of his freshman year, there aren't many details, but he and his saddened family will be in my thoughts and prayers."



Quentin Boggan — Image Credit: Summer School District



PROCESS EVALUATION

Out of Tragedy...

- October 26, 2012: Conducted first “Lake Tapps Educational Discussion”
- Working group pooled expertise and networking on the topic of water safety education



Out of Tragedy...

- Consistent messaging
- Swimsafe = Education and prevention
- Original Stakeholders
 - Bonney Lake Police
 - East Pierce Fire & Rescue
 - Sumner School District
 - Dieringer School District
 - Cascade Water Alliance
 - Pierce County Parks
 - Sumner Bonney Lake Aquatics



IMPACT EVALUATION

A Community At Work...

- Facilitate school assemblies to 7,000+ students in K – 8th grades
- Facilitate peer-to-peer education at middle/junior high and high school levels
- Media blitz: Radio, King 5, NW Cable News, Pierce County TV, Comcast On Demand, newspaper



A Community At Work...

- Pre-sold/fitted 100+ PFDs
- Outreach: April Pools Day, Summer Splash-Tacular, community events
- Political sponsors



OUTCOME EVALUATION

Swimsafe Celebrates

- ZERO drownings two consecutive years
- School-based programs continue to grow
- Incident Locator Program launched
- Anticipated launch of Lake Tapps Water Temperature Buoy Project



RECOMMENDATIONS

Rally YOUR Community

- Seek out your community stakeholders
 - Police, fire, schools, political figures, aquatics center, parks, civic groups, student groups, etc.
- Draw on the strengths of each partner (strong public presence, funding, expertise)
- Unified effort = Stronger, farther reaching impact
- The whole is greater than the sum of its parts



RESOURCES

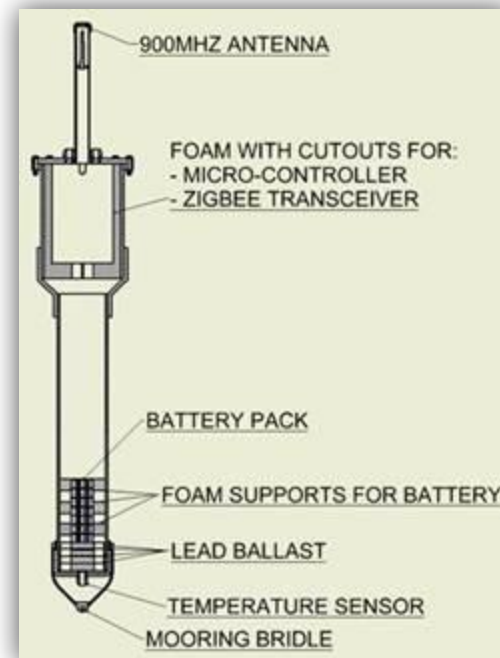
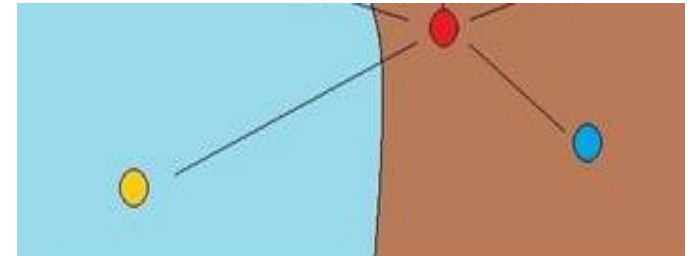
Resources

- Lake Tapps Addressing Project
 - Designed to get emergency resources to the scene of a water related incident quickly and efficiently
 - Dock/shore signs help caller identify their location
 - 911 dispatcher verifies location and sends appropriate units
 - Units respond efficiently to verified location



Resources

- Lake temperature buoys and display
 - BLPD and EPFR partnering with University of Washington and Sound Ocean Systems to create buoy and display
 - Buoys will transmit real-time lake water temperature to on-shore display
 - Display will include cold water incapacitation education component
 - Displays placed at each public park in highly visible locations



Resources

- Stay On Top of the Water Curriculum: WA State Drowning Prevention Network
- Teen Basic Swimming and Water Safety Class: Sumner Bonney Lake Aquatics Center



Resources

- Cascade Water Alliance create and funded a water safety insert for local newspapers

swimSAFE 2013



Neil Johnson
Mayor, City of Bonney Lake

SwimSafe Message From Bonney Lake

The City of Bonney Lake's Allan York Park has seen a number of improvements over the last year.

Following a tragic accidental drowning in June 2012, Parks staff removed the floating swim dock and installed additional warning signs related to swimming hazards in Lake Tapps. Next month an emergency phone will be installed on the boat launch to park users can quickly call 9-1-1 during emergencies.

Last summer, the sport courts were repaired and improved with additional basketball hoops. Additionally, a new sidewalk was added to the south side of West Tapps Highway when the roadway was re-constructed.

Work will be soon be complete as the lake owned by Cascade Water Alliance at Allan York Park. The City of Bonney Lake is completing these improvements with Cascade's permission and include a volleyball court, expanded surrounding area, new sidewalk on the north side of West Tapps Highway, and a new crosswalk.

During the next few weeks, Parks staff will be adding additional signage and staking that will improve traffic flow around the boat launch.

The Bonney Lake Police Department is also committed to the safety of citizens on and off the waterways. This summer, officers will conduct safety ramp inspections, patrol the waters, and provide a water safety course to kids in the Summer and Dieringer School Districts.



The City of Bonney Lake takes safety issues seriously and expects these improvements will enhance safety as well as improve park users experiences while visiting Allan York Park.

SwimSafe Message From Pierce County

Pierce County District #1 Councilmember Dan Roach dedicated a memorial plaque and flagpole at North Lake Tapps Park on Monday, May 20. The plaque reads: "In memory of those who drowned... at Lake Tapps."

REMEMBER
We pause to remember all of those who died tragically over the years at Lake Tapps. Unfortunately, it is a rare occurrence for a year to go by without at least one drowning at the lake.

REFLECT
Take a moment to reflect on the dangers posed by the glacier fed water of Lake Tapps, where cold water shock and hypothermia can overcome even the strongest swimmer swimming less than 100 yards. Reflect on the role alcohol, overconfidence, and carelessness play in these preventable accidents.

LEARN
Learn from our losses. Each person who drowned at Lake Tapps was just like you: they thought it couldn't happen to them. Don't ignore the dangers.

We have inscribed these words on this memorial plaque in the hope of conveying the spirits of the victims and comforting their families and friends. Together we can create a different future.

Pierce County Executive Pat McCarty
Pierce County Council Members
Dan Roach, Stan Flemming, Corrie Lavelley, Jim McCune, Joyce McDonald, Douglas G. Richardson, Rick Talbert

Life Jackets: Why should people of all ages wear life jackets?

Drowning is swift, occurring in as little as 30 seconds, and silent. In 2010, there were 108 drownings in Washington State (40 among 45-64 year olds).

Safety is for everyone - and drownings are preventable!

When buying a life jacket check for:

- ❑ Coast Guard approval label.
- ❑ A snug fit. With the life jacket on, raise your arms over your head. Look to the left and right; the chest part of the jacket shouldn't hit the chin.
- ❑ Head support for younger children. A well designed life jacket will support the child's head when the child is in the water.
- ❑ A Strop between the legs for younger children will help prevent the life jacket from coming off.
- ❑ Appropriate type of activity and water conditions. There are five different types of life jackets. Check the label or ask the salesperson to describe to you the different types and their purposes.
- ❑ Comfort and appearance. This is especially important to teens who may be less likely to want to wear a life jacket.

Guidelines for wearing life jackets

Even if you or your child knows how to swim, children, teens and adults should always wear a life jacket:

- ❑ When on a boat, raft or inner tube
- ❑ When swimming in open water like a lake, river or the ocean
- ❑ When playing in or near water and on docks (for young children)
- ❑ When participating in Water activities such as skiing, surfing, wind surfing, jet-skiing, etc.



Please remember: A life jacket does not take the place of supervision!

How do you use a life jacket?

- ❑ Every spring, check the life jacket for fit as well as wear and tear. Throw it away if you find air leakage, mildew, rot, or rips.
- ❑ Practice wearing your life jacket in the water. Each type of jacket provides floatation in slightly different positions. Make sure your jacket works for you as designed.
- ❑ Never substitute toys, such as water wings, or plastic rings, for a life jacket.



East Pierce Fire & Rescue

To help prevent unintentional drownings and increase life jacket use, East Pierce Professional Firefighters offer life jackets at a discounted price of \$14 in states infant through adult. Stop by our Headquarters Station anytime between 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. The wearers must be present so our firefighters can provide a custom fit.

Life Jacket Loaners

Need to borrow a life jacket?
We can help! East Pierce Fire & Rescue offers free life jackets for loan. The program provides a simple way for people to borrow a properly-sized life jacket for the day or weekend at no charge. Life jackets are available in infant through adult sizes.

Life jackets can be checked out or returned at the following locations:

- ❑ East Pierce Fire & Rescue - Headquarters Station 18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E. Bonney Lake, WA 98391, Phone: (253) 863-1800
- ❑ Lake Tapps North Park (seasonally at the concession stand)
- ❑ Allan York Park (self-serve kiosks)



swimSAFE 2013

swimSAFE Community Meeting

Please join us!
Wednesday, May 22, 2013
6:00 - 8:00 pm
North Tapps Middle School
20029 12th Street E. Lake Tapps, WA

At this Open House you can:

- Learn about water safety
- Hear from students and families about the importance of swimming safety

For more information about the community meeting, visit www.cascadewater.org or email contact@cascadewater.org

Sponsored by:



North Tapps Student's Civic Lessons May Save Lives

North Tapps Middle School seventh grade students are discovering with hard work, determination, and making the right connections, they can make their lake a safer place. Through Project Citizen Civics program, 34 students have identified a public issue, researched options, created a proposal for change, and formed a detailed plan of action.

Students learned that popular Lake Tapps is dangerous. Most drowning victims at Lake Tapps are 16 - 25 years old. They drown because of cold water shock, not lack of swimming skill. This happens when a body drops below the normal temperature, causing it to shut down. Lake Tapps is from glacier run off; therefore, it is colder than other lakes. Glacial silt creates murky water, making it difficult to find incapacitated swimmers in time to save them. Between the cold and murkiness of Lake Tapps, too many lives have been lost.

The class proposal includes flashing LED signs at both public parks posting cold water warnings and a memorial wall at Allen York Park. The brick memorial wall (3' x 5' x 8"), donated by Bill Mundtack, owner of All Masonry Construction Company will have individual plaques attached. The students are requesting donations for stainless steel plaques to memorialize past drowning victims. Flashing signs and a memorial wall will increase cold water shock awareness.

Students have met with representatives from the City of Bonney Lake, Bonney Lake Police Department, East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Dieringer School District, Summer School District, Cascade Water Alliance, and Pierce County Parks and Recreation.

The class proposal includes flashing LED signs at both public parks posting cold water warnings and a memorial wall at Allen York Park. The brick memorial wall (3' x 5' x 8"), donated by Bill Mundtack, owner of All Masonry Construction Company will have individual plaques attached. The students are requesting donations for stainless steel plaques to memorialize past drowning victims. Flashing signs and a memorial wall will increase cold water shock awareness.

Students have met with representatives from the City of Bonney Lake, Bonney Lake Police Department, East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Dieringer School District, Summer School District, Cascade Water Alliance, and Pierce County Parks and Recreation.

The class proposal includes flashing LED signs at both public parks posting cold water warnings and a memorial wall at Allen York Park. The brick memorial wall (3' x 5' x 8"), donated by Bill Mundtack, owner of All Masonry Construction Company will have individual plaques attached. The students are requesting donations for stainless steel plaques to memorialize past drowning victims. Flashing signs and a memorial wall will increase cold water shock awareness.

The class proposal includes flashing LED signs at both public parks posting cold water warnings and a memorial wall at Allen York Park. The brick memorial wall (3' x 5' x 8"), donated by Bill Mundtack, owner of All Masonry Construction Company will have individual plaques attached. The students are requesting donations for stainless steel plaques to memorialize past drowning victims. Flashing signs and a memorial wall will increase cold water shock awareness.

SwimSafe Message from Summer School District

Our Schools ... Our Communities
Located in East Pierce County, the Summer School District serves students and families residing in the cities of Bonney Lake, Edgewood, Pacific and Sumner, and unincorporated areas of Pierce County. The district has 13 schools, a performing arts center, a community swimming pool, a public gymnasium, and a recreation department. We serve over 6,000 students from more than 3,000 families throughout our communities.

A Great Place to Live
Close to the Seattle-Tacoma metro area in East Pierce County, the school district is both rural and suburban in character and rich in natural beauty. The Cascade Mountains and Mt. Rainier dominate the east while quaternary barbers and sheltered islands of Puget Sound beckon from the west. A wealth of outdoor and recreational opportunities including water sports like swimming, boating and fishing, are easily accessible in nearby Lake Tapps.

Not All Lessons are Learned in the Classroom
As the end of the school year approaches, our staff will begin to pack up classrooms, books and memories of the school year. Swimmers of all ages should be taught that fun experiences with friends and family in and near the water include: Knowing Your Limits, Wearing a Life Jacket. Drownings are preventable by making good water safety choices! We encourage our students to make good choices for a happy and safe summer. Our principals, teachers and staff look forward to welcoming all students back in September - refreshed and ready for a new year of success and learning.

Mission Statement
It is our responsibility to ensure the best education possible for all of our students.

Summer School District ... a great place to learn!
We believe in success for students and staff everyday.

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org

www.cascadewater.org



MODEL PERFORMANCE IN FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention Institute 2014

Resources

- PFD pre-order form distributed in schools prior to assemblies



East Pierce Fire & Rescue
and Bonney Lake Police
will be at
Emerald Hills Elementary School
on **June 5, 2014**
to sell and fit life jackets.

Have your child custom fit with a
new life jacket for \$14 each!

To purchase a life jacket, complete the information below and return to your
child's teacher by June 5 with cash or check payable to Local 3520.



Child's Name _____
\$14 each x _____ = \$ _____
Parent Signature _____
Date _____

This life jacket has been provided as a public service by East Pierce Professional Firefighters (Local 3520) for your safety. The Fire Department has no legal responsibility to provide these life jackets. Therefore, the Fire Department and Local 3520 disclaims any responsibility from injury or incorrect usage. The life jacket purchased has no warranty expressed or implied. By signing below, you acknowledge this disclaimer and release the Fire Department, its employees, and Local 3520 from any liability that might otherwise apply.

Life jackets are also available for purchase at East Pierce Fire & Rescue's
Headquarters Station at 18421 Veterans Memorial Dr E in Bonney Lake.
Wearer must be present for custom fit.



Questions? 253-863-1800

