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Pittsburgh District

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Pittsburgh District Bans Use of Tube Kites

PITTSBURGH – Effective immediately, the Pittsburgh District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has banned the use of tube kites on all District managed recreational property.

A tube kite is a large, inflatable device with a solid fabric floor that is pulled behind high-speed boats, much like water skis. However, tube kites are designed to become airborne. As speed increases, the entire tube is lifted into the air like a kite with the rider on top. The rider can be thrown by a sudden slowing or stopping by the boat. The tube kite can unpredictably dive into the water with the equivalent force of a 70-foot drop.

The ban comes after the Consumer Product Safety Commission warned users on June 30, 2006 that kite tubing has been blamed for at least two deaths nationwide this year, with reported injuries including broken ribs, necks and backs, as well as chest and facial injuries.

Warnings will be posted at the Pittsburgh District recreation areas alerting users of the dangers associated with tube kites and advising them of the ban. Corps Rangers will ask violators to remove banned devices from Corps lakes. Failure to heed warnings will result in citation under Title 36, which could impose a penalty of up to \$5,000 or federal imprisonment.

District lakes where the ban is now in effect include: [Conemaugh River Lake](#), [Crooked Creek Lake](#), [East Branch Clarion River Lake](#), [Kinzua Dam/Allegheny Reservoir](#), [Loyalhanna Lake](#), [Mahoning Creek Lake](#), [Shenango River Lake](#), [Tionesta Lake](#), [Union City Dam and Reservoir](#), [Woodcock Creek Lake](#) and [Youghiogheny River Lake](#) in Pennsylvania; [Berlin Lake](#), [Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir](#) and [Mosquito Creek Lake](#) in Ohio and [Stonewall Jackson Lake](#) and [Tygart Lake](#) in West Virginia.

Please make your visit to any recreation area a safe and enjoyable one. Remember, taking water safety precautions saves lives!

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