

# PFD INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

**WEARING A PFD OR LIFEJACKET CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE IF YOU FALL OVERBOARD. TO MAKE SURE YOUR DEVICE WORKS AS INTENDED, YOU NEED TO INSPECT IT, MAINTAIN IT AND REPLACE IT IF IT'S DAMAGED.**

- **INSPECT YOUR FLOATATION DEVICE**
- **CLEAN, MAINTAIN, AND STORE YOUR DEVICE PROPERLY**
- **REPLACE DAMAGED PFDs OR LIFEJACKETS**



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

# PFD INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE



## INSPECT YOUR PFD OR LIFEJACKET FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Metal or plastic hardware that is broken, deformed or weakened by corrosion.
- Ripped or torn webbing or straps or check if they have become separated from an attachment point.
- Rotted or deteriorated material that fails when tugged.
- Rips, tears or open seams in fabric or coatings that are large enough to allow the loss of buoyant material.
- Buoyant material that has become hardened, non-resilient, permanently compressed, waterlogged or oil-soaked, or shows evidence of fungus or mildew.
- Loss of buoyant material or buoyant material that is not securely held in position.
- Ensure there is retroreflective material on it and it is in good condition. Use a brightly coloured vest or jacket for the best visibility.
- Auto-inflatable lifejackets have a hydrostatic inflator with a five-year expiry date. Check to see if the inflator has not expired and the status indicator button in the window is showing green. If it is showing red, replace the cartridge.

## PROPERLY CLEAN, MAINTAIN, AND STORE YOUR PFD OR LIFEJACKET AS FOLLOWS:

- Use only a mild soapy solution when cleaning your PFD or lifejacket.
- Never use dry-cleaning, strong detergents, gasoline or solvents to remove a stain from your PFD or lifejacket.
- Never store a wet PFD or lifejacket. Dry it first in the open air, away from sunlight or direct heat sources.
- When not in use, store your PFD or lifejacket in a dry, well-ventilated, easily accessible place on board the vessel.

## REPLACE DAMAGED PFDS OR LIFEJACKETS

- Any PFD or lifejacket that is damaged or doesn't pass inspection needs to be immediately removed from service.
- Always have at least one spare PFD or lifejacket on hand to replace damaged ones or if someone shows up without their required PFD.
- Always inform your supervisor if you take a PFD from storage. They'll need to order a replacement.

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