

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# **COLD WATER BOATING SAFETY**


LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION

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MARCH 2025



# RISKY ACTIVITIES

- WHAT'S MORE DANGEROUS?
    - SKYDIVING
    - SCUBA DIVING
    - MOTORCYCLE RIDING
    - BOATING
- 

# RISKY ACTIVITIES

- MOTORCYCLE RIDING – 65 PER 100,000 REGISTERED MOTORCYCLES
- BOATING – 4.9 PER 100,000 REGISTERED BOATS, ~4,000 DROWNINGS YEARLY
- SCUBA DIVING – 0.45 PER 100,000 DIVES
- SKYDIVING – 0.34 PER 100,000 JUMPS, 9 IN 2024

# COLD WATER FACTS

- AVERAGE OF 700 PEOPLE DIE ANNUALLY FROM COLD WATER EXPOSURE
- IMMERSION SHOCK – IT'S A KILLER
  - INVOLUNTARY AND IMMEDIATE PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTION TO COLD IMMERSION
  - HYPERVENTILATION
  - INCREASED HEART RATE AND BLOOD PRESSURE
  - DECREASED ABILITY TO HOLD ONES BREATH
  - PANIC
- PRIMARY DANGER
  - WARM WEATHER BUT THE WATER IS COLD
  - MARCH – MAY ARE HIGH RISK

# HYPOTHERMIA

- CAN OCCUR IN 70 DEGREE WATER REGARDLESS OF THE AIR TEMP
- MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHEN CORE BODY TEMPERATURE DROPS TO 95
- COLD WATER, WET CLOTHES, WIND CHILL, ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, LACK OF FOOD, CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AGE, WEIGHT, BODY TYPE
- SHIVERING, CONFUSION, SLURRED SPEECH, DROWSINESS, LOSS OF COORDINATION, PALE SKIN, NUMBNESS OR TINGLING IN HANDS OR FEET
- OLDER FOLKS, YOUNG CHILDREN, MEDICAL CONDITIONS, DRUGS, ALCOHOL
- GET DRY, DRY CLOTHES AND BLANKETS, WARM LIQUIDS, WARMTH
- CALL FOR HELP

# SURVIVAL TIMES

- 60 DEGREE WATER
  - LOSS OF DEXTERITY 15-20 MINUTES
  - 1-2 HOURS UNCONSCIOUS, 1-6 HOURS DEAD
  - SHORT TIME TO SELF-RESCUE
- LAKE MURRAY TEMPERATURE CURRENTLY IS 50ish DEGREES
  - LOSS OF DEXTERITY IN 5-10 MINUTES
    - CAN'T GRAB A ROPE OR HOLD ON TO FLOTATION
  - WON'T BE ABLE TO SELF-RESCUE
  - UNCONSCIOUS 30 MINUTES-1 HOUR, DEAD IN 1-3 HOURS
  - CAN YOUR PARTNER OPERATE THE BOAT?
  - CAN THEY LIFT YOU BACK IN THE BOAT?

# COLD WATER FATALITIES

- LAKE HARTWELL
  - NINE DEATHS IN 3 YEARS
  - JANUARY 2025 - SINKING BOAT, 3 ADULTS, ONE CHILD
    - CALLED FOR HELP
    - CHILD HAD A LIFE JACKET
    - 25-YEAR OLD FEMALE DROWNED
- LAKES WATEREE & MARION
  - 3 FATALITIES IN LAST TWO WEEKS AGO
- LAKE MURRAY
  - FIVE DEATHS IN THREE YEARS

# BOATING SAFETY

- *PREVENTION IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN A CURE*
- IT STARTS BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE DOCK
- FLOAT PLAN
- DRESS IN LAYERS, STAY DRY, WEAR A HAT (10% HEAT LOSS)
- HAVE TOWELS AND EXTRA CLOTHES IN A DRY BAG
- CHECK YOUR GEAR, MAKE SURE IT WORKS
- DON'T BOAT SOLO
- WEAR PROPERLY FITTED FLOATATION
- BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR BOAT AND YOUR ABILITIES
- DON'T BOAT IN QUESTIONABLE CONDITIONS

# BOATING SAFETY

- USE THE KILL SWITCH, IT'S THE LAW
- TRAIL A SAFETY LINE
- HAVE A MEANS TO REENTER THE BOAT AND PRACTICE
- MONITOR THE WEATHER
- BE WILLING TO STOP BOATING
- GET OFF THE WATER EARLY
- CALL SOMEONE AND LET THEM KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AND YOUR PLAN
- CALL FOR HELP
  - HARTWELL INCIDENT - CALLED WHEN THE BOAT STARTED TAKING ON WATER, COULD HAVE BEEN 4 DEATHS

# TESTIMONIAL

- **KATE GRICE HOUGH**
- PRO LADY ANGLER, PRODUCT AMBASSADOR AND PRO-STAFF MEMBER OF MANY BRANDS, DNR CERTIFIED ANGLING INSTRUCTOR, FISHING 101 SEMINARS AND CLINICS, LADY ANGLERS OF LAKE MURRAY, AND MORE
- LAST WEEKEND, BOAT EXPLOSION, SUDDEN IMMERSION

