Low Dams and Waterfalls

Low dams - like natural waterfalls - are dangerous features, and can be even more dangerous when they are freshly constructed or under repair. Low dams release water that can create powerful currents that can trap you in the water and push you against the structure, causing you to be unable to escape.

Wear a Life Vest

More than 80% of all boating fatalities occur because the person involved wasn't wearing a life vest. Many people feel their life vests are unnecessary and don't have the room to be comfortable. If you think your life vest is in the way, please try one on. You might be surprised at how little it restricts your movement.

Safety tips to follow

• Enter the location of all the dams and waterfalls on the river that you plan to use.
• Never attempt to rescue a man over water.
• Parking your boat around a low dam and watch a safe distance, well downstream of the backwash of the low dam.
• Enter the river and the location of hazards. Talk to other boaters in the area and give any additional information.
• Be aware of hazards, boaters, and learn from them.
• Watch for a smooth line connecting the banks. This may be the top of a low dam.
• Look for the upwelling of turbulence and low dams. Low dams are not a danger until water starts to tip. If you should fall into the water, the current will not hold you in the water, but the current will push you against the strainer and hold you in place with tremendous force. The current may hold you at the water surface, push you against the strainer and hold you in place with tremendous force. The current may hold you at the water surface, push you against the strainer and hold you in place with tremendous force. The current may hold you at the water surface, push you against the strainer and hold you in place with tremendous force. The current may hold you at the water surface, push you against the strainer and hold you in place with tremendous force.