



# KANDIYOHI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Greetings!

Welcome back to the snowbirds that left this area for warmer weather; it was a very long, long winter in the land of 10,000 lakes! Now that the lakes are starting to thaw we look forward to many outdoor activities, which in this area include many water activities.

One of the topics that I would like to address is the marker buoys used on the lakes. Starting Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a deputy has been going around the lake, hand delivering a letter addressing buoy use and the law relating to swim areas. Below is the letter that was handed out and if you have further questions please call! The goal is to have the correct buoys used for the right purpose.

Dear Lake Property, Renter, or Lessee:

This letter is to inform and ensure that you have the proper information for putting in, marking, and maintaining your personal swim area and rafts for the 2009 water season.

During the 2008 water season complaints were received by the Sheriff's Office about improperly marked, oversized, and/or illegal swimming areas, rafts, and/or platforms. Those resulting complaints led to the Sheriff's Office removing many improperly marked or oversized swimming areas from the lake.

The following information is taken directly from the Minnesota boating guide put out by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It discusses information reference the private party swim areas and personal swim rafts.

**Minnesota Rule 6110.1600 "The owner or lessee of shoreline property may mark off up to 2,500 square feet, but not more than 50 feet along the lake frontage, for a swimming area directly in front of his or her property. Markers to designate a private swimming area must be white with an orange diamond and cross on each side. The markers must extend out of the water at least six inches but not more than 14 and should be spaced no more than 15 feet apart. (Note: a white gallon plastic bleach bottle with the orange markings painted on each side fulfills this requirement.)" See the Minnesota boating guide book for further information about buoys, rafts, and any other water related activity, also permit number should be included on the top of each buoy, see attachment.**

During the 2008 season, the Sheriff's Office allowed people that had already purchased large regulatory buoys to use them in conjunction with the proper buoys to mark swim areas. **This year regulatory buoys will not be allowed for the marking of personal swim areas.** If you have regulatory buoys (good shape), the Sheriff's Office will exchange them at a 1 for 2 rate; this will provide you with the correct buoys to be used for marking personal swim areas.

Also, it is still legal to use gallon white bottles with orange painted swimming diamonds on them, see attachment. This year the Sheriff's Office is having the inmates in the jail manufacture swimming buoys that meet the regulations for use on personal swim areas. These buoys are available for sale, \$35/each. The money for the buoys goes back into the inmate fund that is providing the funding for the construction of the buoys. The inmate fund is also used to fund items needed by the inmates on a daily basis, as well as covering the security of the jail. If you would like to purchase these buoys, please contact Gene Borke at 320-214-6700, ext. 3663.

The above information gives you the requirements, regulations, and information necessary for properly marking your private swim area.

The permits that are required for your buoys can be obtained at the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office. **This number must be put on each buoy.** Permits are also required for any flotation object left in the water, such as your raft. The permits are good for two years. Come into the Sheriff's Office to fill out the proper paperwork, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

Swim rafts are also another area we see that are not being properly marked and permitted. Structures such as swimming rafts, buoys, volleyball nets, slalom courses, ski jumps, etc, **which do not extend from shore**, cannot be placed in the water between sunset and sunrise without first obtaining a permit from the County Sheriff. All structures placed under a permit must have the permit number painted on them. In addition, the structure or buoy must either have a light visible in all directions or be reflective so as to reflect light from all directions.

Again, we thank you for your cooperation and assistance with properly marking your swim areas according to the laws and regulations. This is done so everyone can enjoy the waters that our County has to offer you and do it in a safe and fun manner.

If you have any questions reference this letter, please feel free to contact Deputy Tony Pirrotta at 320-214-6700, ext. 3351; or Deputy Dave Holmquist at 320-214-6700, ext. 3340. If you are unable to reach either of them, you can try asking for a water safety deputy via Dispatch at 320-235-1260.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Sincerely,



Sheriff Dan Hartog, #3301  
Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff's Office swim buoy