

What's in Your PFD?

Following a post on Paddlewise.net, I queried CPA paddlers about what they carry in their pfd's. Results below in order of the most often cited items. Part of the idea is that stuff that is in your boat isn't really "with you" if you have to bail out and get separated. So, what's in YOUR pfd?

	Sum	Mike Aron-off	Susan Williams	Big Ed Her-shon	Manu-verer Heim-lich	Alison Si-gethy	Rich "30 mile" Ste-vens	Sheila "Iwear purple"	Mi-chael Mat-thews	Anne Culver	Brian Blanki nship	Dave Isbell	Puz-zlepax	Peter Qayan gua (single Anger-hole)	Todd Anger-hofer
whistle or horn	12	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1
knife	12	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
food bar or snack	10	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1		1
VHF radio	10	1		1	1	1	1				1	1	1		1
signal light	9	1		1	1	1	1	1				1	1		1
compass	8	1	1	1			1	1	1		1				1
waterproof digital camera	6			1	1	1	1		1						1
signal mirror	5		1			1			1		1	1			
ID card or driver's license	5		1			1	1			1			1		
Sunscreen	4				1	1		1			1				
Signal flares	4				1							1	1		1
money (\$5, \$20)/credit card/wallet	4						1			1			1	1	
Lip balm	3				1	1					1				
skull cap when cold	3	1				1							1		
Car key	3				1	1								1	
Cell phone (in drybag)	3								1	1				1	
water bottle/hydration/camelback	2	1				1									
tow rope on waist	2	1			1										
Emergency phone numbers	2					1				1					
cow tail with biner	2	1										1			
Nose plugs	2										1	1			
Trip leader checklist	2				1						1				
Paddling gloves	2											1	1		
small dry box with 1st aid kit	1	1													
warmer pack	1					1									
ultralight raincoat	1					1									
space blanket	1					1									
boater safety course card	1						1								
thermometer	1							1							
Capital One card (sure, you barbarian)	1								1						
GPS	1								1						
Name on PFD	1									1					
Smoke canister	1											1			
Length of strong cord	1												1		
Fossil shark teeth	1												1		

Todd Angerhofer and his PFD photo by Ralph Heimlich

