Discuss the Characteristics of a Type II PFD

Type II PFDs are for recreational use. They are designed for inland water, good flotation capability where quick rescues are imminent. These devices may roll an unconscious victim to a face-up position. However, it often depends on how the PFD was donned, as well as, how it has been maintained.

It is important to remember that besides wearing a PFD on the water, all rescuers working within 15’ of the shoreline should be wearing a rescue helmet and appropriate PFD.

A PFD of any kind must have a United States Coast Guard rating tag of approval before they are acceptable for rescue work.

Improper maintenance and cleaning can lead to rapid deterioration of the PFD. This is why it is essential to follow the manufactures recommendations for cleaning and maintaining PFD’s.

What type of PFD is available to your department? Are there SOP / SOGs for the use and maintenance of them? Have they been maintained according to the manufactures recommendations?