

# COMMON SENSE

- Always respect the river.
- Wear your PFD (personal flotation device), especially if the river is swift or cold, and always at Compton Rapid.
- Respect property owner rights (do not trespass).
- Bring back more trash than you generate (it's good karma).
- Give fishermen space to do their thing (also good karma).
- Secure your car keys, and waterproof your cell phone.
- Overnight float? Make your camp high, pull your watercraft up well off the river, & tie it off.
- Use cat holes for bodily waste, drown campfires, and take your trash.

## **EMERGENCY**

- Call us. 540-635-5526. We know the river geography well and can coordinate a response.
- Cell service. Sprint good. AT&T fair, Verizon - poor. T-mobile - poor.
- River mile markers 1 to 22 are in Page County: call 911 or 540-843-0911.
- River mile markers 22 to 44 are in Warren County: call 911 or (540) 635-4128.

## CANOEING TIPS

- Seats are set noticeably to the rear, or stern, of the canoe.
- Balance load side to side with slightly more weight in the stern.
- Paddle in unison on opposite sides of the canoe.
- The stern paddler is responsible for locomotion and steering, the bow paddler for locomotion and general direction (and gets to castigate the stern paddler for obvious steering blunders).
- Any third person should sit on the floor of the canoe just ahead of the center thwart.

## IN SWIFT WATER

- 1. Always wear your PFD
- Look ahead and plan the route, usually following and aligned with the main water flow.
- If you are unsure, scout ahead.
- 4. If you overturn:
  - a. Immediately push away from and get upstream of overturned watercraft. Just let it go.
  - Do hang on to your paddle, and float on your back with feet downstream to ward off rocks.
  - Recover watercraft in calm water and swim it to shore to empty out the water.

## SAFETY

- Wear your PFD (personal floatation device), especially if the river is swift or cold, and always at Compton Rapid. (Can't say it enough).
- Protect yourself from the sun. Use sunscreen liberally on your head, shoulders, knees, toes and feet. Wear a hat.
- Wear foot protection that covers your foot. Flip Flops don't cut it.
- 4. If you are caught in a sudden electrical storm, get to shore, try to avoid tall trees, and use your overturned watercraft as shelter.
- Stay off the river when it is flooded out of its banks.
- Avoid downed trees or any other obstacle in flowing water.
- Beware of hypothermia and get out of cold water fast.
- Paddling while under the influence is just not cool. Your selfishness robs others of enjoyment and could threaten the safety of all. Save the bottled fun for after the run, and make the drive home safe and sober.

Please be advised landscapes and watercourses continually change and evolve. Therefore, Adventure Enablers and Downriver Canoe Company do not guarantee the current accuracy or completeness of this map and do not accept responsibility for any inconvenience or injury that may occur as a result of the use of this map.

