

## Cleaning and Storing Your AirForce® PFD

To clean your inflatable PFD, remove the CO<sub>2</sub> gas cylinder, auto cap, and bobbin. Hand wash or sponge down in warm, soapy water and rinse with clean water.

Hang to dry on a plastic coat hanger. Be sure to replace CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder, auto cap and bobbin. See **Rearming your PFD as Manual with Automatic Backup or Manual Only**

Always store your AirForce® product in a warm, dry place out of direct sunlight.

→ The automatic inflator bobbin should be replaced at least once every twelve months.

## WHY ARE PFDs REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

Drownings are the leading cause of fatalities involving recreational boating. A PFD provides flotation to help keep your head above water, help you to stay face up in the water, and increase your chances for survival and rescue. Most adults only need an extra 7 to 12 pounds of flotation to keep their heads above water. The proper size PFD will properly support the weight of the wearer.

Since this inflatable PFD does not have inherent buoyancy, it provides flotation only when inflated. Familiarize yourself with the use of this PFD so you know what to do in an emergency.

## How and Why to Test your PFD

Inflate your PFD and try it out in the water to:

- Make sure it floats you:  
Comfortably (when worn properly)  
Adequately for expected wave conditions (Body shapes/densities affect performance)
- Make sure it works:  
A flow of bubbles should not appear (see **CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS** for leak tests )  
It should inflate quick and easily.
- Learn how it works by:  
Activating the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system  
Rearming the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system  
Using the oral inflator tube

The U.S.Coast Guard recommends that you purchase two automatic rearming kits. One to be used immediately in testing the automatic inflation system (see **HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR PFD USING THE AUTOMATIC INFLATOR?**) and the other to carry on board as a spare.

Since you should replace the bobbin (water sensing element) each year, the U.S. Coast Guard recommends you test the automatic inflation system in-the-water at the beginning of each boating season. By doing this, you demonstrate that the automatic inflation system is still working properly and reduce the likelihood of premature inflation and its associated dangers. The only check of the manual inflation system (with CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder and green indicator pin removed) would be to determine that the lever arm and piercing pin move freely when moving the lever (attached to the pull tab) several times down and up.