



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **OPERATION DRY WATER TARGETS DRINKING AND BOATING DANGERS JUNE 27-29**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – California State Parks and other California law enforcement agencies will be out in force during this weekend for [Operation Dry Water](#), a multi-agency effort to promote safety in the State’s waterways.

Operation Dry Water is an annual nationwide effort to highlight the risks and dangers of operating boats under the influence. The stepped up enforcement raises awareness of operating boats under the influence of alcohol or drugs in advance of the Fourth of July holiday. Falling on a Friday, this year’s Independence Day will kick off a three day weekend for thousands of California boaters seeking quality time with friends and family.

One quick way to end the fun is drinking alcohol, not only for those operating boats, but for everyone aboard. Out of 38 boating fatalities during 2013, where testing was conducted, 29% were alcohol related.

“Mixing drinking and boating drastically increases the odds for a painful or even tragic outcome, not to mention the humiliation and expense of getting arrested,” said California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Acting Director Colonel Christopher C. Conlin, USMC (Ret). “We’re also calling attention to the dangers of passengers becoming intoxicated, because drunken passengers can easily fall overboard, swim near propellers, or in small vessels, cause capsizes by leaning or standing up.”

Alcohol can impair a boater’s judgment, balance, vision and reaction time. It can increase fatigue and susceptibility to the effect of cold-water immersion. Sun, wind, noise, vibration and motion – “stressors” common to the boating environment – intensify the side effects of alcohol, drugs and some prescription medications.

In California, it is against the law to operate a boat or water ski with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 percent or more. A person with a BAC less than 0.08 percent may also be arrested if conditions are deemed to be unsafe. If convicted, a person may be sentenced to jail for up to six months and assessed fines of up to \$1,000. Two convictions within seven years could add a jail term of up to one year. Boaters caught operating under the

influence may also find their voyage terminated and their vessel impounded.

Participating agencies include:

- Butte County Sheriff's Office
- California State Parks, Folsom Lake SRA
- Contra Costa County Sheriff's Marine Pat
- Contra Costa Sheriff
- Glenn County Sheriff's Department
- Imperial County Sheriff's Office
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.- Park
- Napa County Sheriff's Department
- Nevada County Sheriff's Office
- Plumas County Sheriff
- Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
- Shasta County Sheriff's Office
- Solano County Sheriff's Office
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
- Sutter County Sheriff's Office
- USACE
- USACE Hensley
- USCG Sector San Diego
- USCG Station Golden Gate
- USCG Station Noyo River
- USCGC DORADO
- Yolo Sheriff's Office

For more information on this annual event, visit <http://www.OperationDryWater.org>. California specific boating laws and safety tips may be found at [www.BoatSmarter.com](http://www.BoatSmarter.com).

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*To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.*