

NEVER



BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE

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Operation Dry Water 2014 Results Increased participation leads to increased boater outreach during national BUI awareness and enforcement campaign

LEXINGTON, Ky. (11/19/14) – Significantly more law enforcement agencies are participating in [Operation Dry Water](#), the nation's year-round boating under the influence (BUI) awareness and enforcement campaign. This year, 585 local, state and federal agencies joined forces in every U.S. state and territory for the campaign's annual heightened awareness and enforcement weekend and removed 318 intoxicated boat operators from our nation's waterways. The three-day weekend took place nationwide June 27-29, 2014.

The increase in law enforcement participation led to a positive increase in recreational boater outreach as well. The goal of Operation Dry Water (ODW) and those who participate is not only to remove impaired boaters from the water. Equally important is the goal of raising awareness throughout the year among recreational boaters about the dangers that come with the decision to operate a vessel while under the influence. During this year's heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, law enforcement officers made contact with 146,711 boaters as part of their education and awareness efforts. There was also an increase in national media coverage of the campaign, another way Operation Dry Water is getting the message out to boaters to never boating under the influence.

"Alcohol still remains the leading contributing factor in boater deaths, so we are proud to see the growth in both law enforcement and outreach and awareness efforts taking place across the country. The year-long campaign has developed public service announcements, messaging materials, news articles, and conducted media interviews calling attention to the risks associated with boating under the influence. Potentially every impression could result in a life saved. Take a boating safety class, wear your life jacket, and boat sober to help us assure you and your family a fun and safe boating experience," says ODW spokesperson John Fetterman, NASBLA's deputy executive director.

Since the launch of Operation Dry Water in 2009, the amount of boating fatalities with alcohol named as a contributing factor has decreased from 19 percent to 16 percent in the United States*. However, alcohol use continues to be the leading known contributing factor in recreational boating deaths in the United States.

Now in its sixth year, Operation Dry Water was launched by the [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators](#) (NASBLA) in partnership with the [United States Coast Guard](#). Operation Dry Water is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign with the mission of reducing the number of alcohol-related accidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water.

For more information on this annual awareness and enforcement campaign, visit the Operation Dry Water website at www.operationdrywater.org. [View the ODW 2014 weekend results chart.](#)

*2013 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics