

# NEVER



# BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE

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## **Alcohol related deaths decrease but alcohol remains leading factor in recreational boater deaths**

*Operation Dry Water June 27-29*

Lexington, Ky. (05/20/14) – The U.S. Coast Guard recently released the 2013 Recreational Boating Statistics, and the new figures show the largest decrease in the number of alcohol-related recreational boater deaths in the past five years. From 2012 to 2013, there was a 31 percent decrease in the number of recreational boaters' deaths where alcohol use was the known primary contributing factor.

As boating season gets underway in much of the country, these improved boating under the influence (BUI) related statistics are encouraging to the boating safety educators, professionals and marine law enforcement officials who work continuously year-round to educate boaters and instill in them the dangers and consequences of boating under the influence.

While the decrease in the number of deaths is a great step forward, boating under the influence continues to be a major problem in the United States. Over the past five years, alcohol use has remained the leading known contributing factor in recreational boater deaths.

To help draw public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol and drugs, in 2009, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators launched, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, *Operation Dry Water* – the nation's boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign. This year's Operation Dry Water weekend is June 27-29.

The mission of Operation Dry Water is to raise public awareness about the dangers of boating under the influence and to reduce the number of deaths on the water related to alcohol consumption. Every year, in addition to the year-round outreach efforts of the campaign, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and boating safety partners participate in Operation Dry Water weekend, a nationwide three-day heightened BUI enforcement weekend.

In 2013, more than 6,200 law enforcement officers across the country participated in the three-day heightened BUI enforcement weekend. In the course of that weekend, law enforcement removed 290 BUI operators from the water and made contact with more the 144,000 boaters, educating them about boating under the influence and safe boating practices.

To find out more about Operation Dry Water or register your agency to participate in the campaign, visit [operationdrywater.org](http://operationdrywater.org).

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[www.operationdrywater.org](http://www.operationdrywater.org)