

NEVER



BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE

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Law enforcement agencies nationwide take part in Operation Dry Water to deter boating under the influence

Operation Dry Water June 27-29

LEXINGTON, Ky. (June 3, 2014) – Law enforcement officers across the U.S. are gearing up for [Operation Dry Water](#) – the nation’s boating under the influence (BUI) awareness and enforcement campaign. The nationwide event will take place June 27-29. Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in recreational boater deaths in the United States.

During the three-day Operation Dry Water weekend, law enforcement officers at local, state and federal levels will be on heightened alert for those violating boating under the influence laws. In 2013, officers contacted 144,044 recreational boaters and made 290 BUI arrests during the three-day weekend. Thousands of law enforcement officers, along with their boating safety partners, will be on the water during Operation Dry Water educating boaters about the dangers of boating under the influence of drugs and alcohol as well as removing from the water those who choose to boat impaired.

"The mission of Operation Dry Water and the law enforcement officers who participate is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related deaths on the water," says John Fetterman, [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators](#) (NASBLA) Deputy Executive Director. "Boating should be a fun and enjoyable time spent with friends and family; we are asking that boaters make sure their voyage remains enjoyable by boating sober. Too many accidents and deaths are caused by those who choose to boat under the influence."

In 2009, NASBLA, in partnership with the [United States Coast Guard](#), launched [Operation Dry Water](#) to help draw public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol and drugs. According to the [2013 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics](#), from 2009 to 2013 there has been a 37 percent decrease in the number of recreational boater deaths where alcohol use was listed as the known primary contributing factor. From 2012 to 2013, there was a 31 percent decrease in the number of alcohol-related recreational boater deaths – the most significant decrease in the past five years.

For more information on Operation Dry Water, please visit operationdrywater.org.

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