**Talking Points**

**OPERATION DRY WATER**

**July 3 – 5, 2020**

Boating under the influence (BUI) continues to be a major factor in accidents and deaths on our nation’s waterways. Organizations and outreach partners are teaming up for **Operation Dry Water**, a national boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign.

The Operation Dry Water 2020 heightened awareness and enforcement three-day weekend is July 3 - 5, over the Fourth of July – a holiday known for drinking and boating, and deadly accidents.

* [Organization name], [other partners], the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the U.S. Coast Guard are joining together in an intensified effort to educate boaters about boating under the influence and safe boating practices.
* Operation Dry Water is a year-round boating under the influence awareness campaign.
* Organizations and law enforcement agencies from all 56 U.S. states and territories participate in Operation Dry Water, and in the heightened awareness and enforcement weekend.
* Launched in 2009 by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, Operation Dry Water has been a highly successful effort to draw public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence (BUI) of alcohol and drugs.
* Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in recreational boating deaths and a major factor in accidents on the water.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* BUI is illegal. Operating a recreational vessel with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of [state BAC limit] or higher is against [state] law.
* Boating under the influence applies to drugs, as well as alcohol. Even some prescription medications can make operating a recreational vessel unsafe. Check with your doctor about the effects of any medications you may be taking.
* Alcohol can impair a boater's judgment, balance, vision and reaction time. It can increase fatigue and susceptibility to the effects of cold-water immersion.
* Sun, wind, noise, vibration and rocking of the boat are all "stressors" common to the boating environment. These stressors intensify the effects of alcohol, drugs and some medications.
* Alcohol use is dangerous for passengers too. Intoxicated passengers can easily slip, fall overboard or suffer other life-threatening accidents.
* If you boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol you are endangering your life and the lives of others.
* Alcohol use can increase fatigue and susceptibility to the effects of cold-water immersion.
* It is important that all operators and passengers are wearing a USCG approved life jacket. Also, operators should use of an engine cut-off device.
* The mission of Operation Dry Water is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-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, boaters can access [operationdrywater.org](http://www.operationdrywater.org), [nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org), [uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org) or [agency website].

1. Source: U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)