

# NEVER

## BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE!



**National Boating Under the Influence Awareness  
and Enforcement Campaign**

**JUNE 26-28, 2015**

**MEDIA PRESS KIT**

**NEVER**



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THE INFLUENCE**

## Operation Dry Water 2015

National boating under the influence (BUI)  
awareness and enforcement campaign

### Press Kit

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



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## Campaign Overview

OPERATION DRY WATER

June 26-28, 2015

### *About Operation Dry Water:*

- Operation Dry Water heightened awareness and enforcement weekend is June 26-28, 2015.
- Operation Dry Water is a national awareness and enforcement campaign focused on reducing the number of alcohol- and drug-related accidents and fatalities and fostering a stronger, more visible deterrent to alcohol and drug use on the water.
- Operation Dry Water is coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard as well as local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.
- Officers from all 56 U.S. states, trusts and territories are expected to participate June 26-28 in Operation Dry Water 2015.
- Launched in 2009 by NASBLA in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, Operation Dry Water has been a highly successful campaign, drawing public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence (BUI) of alcohol and drugs.
- Since the inception of the Operation Dry Water Campaign in 2009, law enforcement officers have removed 1,875 BUI operators from the nation's waterways and made contact with over 604,250 boaters during the annual three-day weekend. The campaign continues to make a significant impact on boater safety and spread the message of the danger of boating under the influence.
- Operation Dry Water is held in June just prior to the Fourth of July holiday, a holiday known for increased boaters on the waters where alcohol use is prevalent, as are subsequent boating accidents and fatalities.
- Since the start of Operation Dry Water in 2009, the percentage of boating fatalities with alcohol named as a contributing factor has decreased from 19% to 16% in the United States according to U.S. Coast Guard *Recreational Boating Statistics 2013*.
- The Operation Dry Water outreach and awareness portion of the campaign is in effect year-round. Through the outreach efforts of NASBLA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the participating law enforcement agencies nationwide, Operation Dry Water focuses on spreading awareness of the danger of boating under the influence as well as changing the cultural acceptance of drinking and boating.



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## Press Kit - Fact Sheet

OPERATION DRY WATER

June 26-28, 2015

### *Operation Dry Water 2014*

- In 2014, 585 local, state, and federal agencies participated in Operation Dry Water. Over that three-day weekend, law enforcement officers contacted 146,711 boaters, made 318 BUI arrests, and issued 18,607 citations and warnings for safety violations.
- In 2014, more than 6,950 officers from 585 local, state, and federal agencies participated in the 72 hours of heightened BUI enforcement.

### *About Boating Under the Influence (BUI):*

- U.S. Coast Guard 2013 data reveal that alcohol use is the primary known contributing factor recreational boater deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- Operating a boat with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher is against federal law and most state laws.
- Alcohol can impair a boater's judgment, balance, vision, and reaction time. It can also increase fatigue and susceptibility to the effects 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 medications.
- Impairment can be even more dangerous for boaters than for drivers, since most boaters have less experience and confidence operating a boat than they do driving a car.
- Persons found to be boating under the influence can expect to incur severe penalties. If a boat operator is BUI, the voyage may be terminated, the boat may be impounded and the operator may be arrested. Penalties vary by state but can include fines, jail, loss of boating privileges, and even loss of driving privileges.
- A three-year field evaluation by the Southern California Research Institute completed in 2011 validated a battery of tests for marine use that is now the basis for efforts to implement a National Marine Field Sobriety Test standard.



- Combined with chemical tests using blood, breath, and urine samples, these validated ashore and afloat tests give marine law enforcement officers an impressive arsenal in their ongoing efforts to enforce BUI laws.
- Alcohol is also dangerous for passengers. Intoxication can lead to slips, falls overboard and other dangerous accidents.
- It is illegal in every state and territory to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. BUI laws pertain to all vessels, from canoes and rowboats to the largest ships.

### ***Other Boating Safety Facts:***

- 84% of people who drowned in a recreational boating accident were not wearing a life jacket.<sup>2</sup> Always wear a life jacket!
- Boat operator instruction is a significant factor in avoiding and surviving accidents. In accidents where the operator's instruction was known, 80% of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received any boating safety instruction.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2013, there were 12,013,496 recreational vessels registered in the United States.

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<sup>(1-3)</sup> Source: U.S. Coast Guard *Recreational Boating Statistics 2013*



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