



# MCIWEST-MCB CAMP PENDLETON



## Critical Days of Summer Newsletter

July 2014

### Watercraft Safety



Each year thousands are injured due to preventable recreational water incidents. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) reports hundreds of lives lost each year and millions of dollars in property damage that could have been prevented (USCG.org, 2014). Boat operators, passengers, and concerned individuals CAN make a difference (USCG.org, 2014).

By taking a Boating Safety Course, knowing your limits, and wearing your life jacket can help prevent injuries and saving lives (USCG.org, 2014).

Boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI), is illegal. The law applies to ALL boats, and is enforced by the USCG (uscg.org, 2014).



### 2013 Statistics



- **42%** of the fatal accidents were **falls overboard** (22 accidents). Boaters falling overboard remain the main cause of boating fatalities.
- The **leading cause of death** in fatal boating accidents was drowning (74%).
- The deadliest month in 2013 was December with 12 fatalities.
- **Alcohol or drug-use** played a role in 15% of boating fatalities.
- 84% of the victims of fatal boating accidents were males (52).
- The **total fatality count** for 2013 is reported at 62.
- 72% (41) of the 57 operators involved in fatal accidents were over the age of 35.
- 49% (29) of all fatal accidents in 2013 involved vessels 16 feet or less in length.
- There were **736 accidents resulting in 420 injuries**. The rate of injury was 47 injuries per 100,000 vessels.



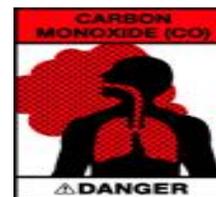
## Safety in the Water



Best viewed on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/i0SH55clU5k>

- Wear an approved life jacket.
- Be sure the boat and ski equipment are in good shape.
- Always turn off the motor when you approach a fallen skier.
- Keep an eye peeled ahead of your boat.
- Have an extra person aboard as a lookout and to help the skier.
- Go over hand signals with the person driving the boat.
- Don't ski after dark or in areas that are off-limits.
- Learn to swim.
- Check the weather. Get off the water if you see a storm approaching.
- Only water ski and wakeboard during the daytime.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Always wear an approved safety helmet when wakeboarding.
- Always have a spotter sit at the back of the boat to watch the skier and communicate with the boat operator.
- Immediately let go of the tow rope when you fall.
- Make sure the propeller of the boat has stopped before getting back into the boat.
- Stop water skiing and wakeboarding as soon as you hear thunder, see lightning or know a storm is coming.
- Do not water ski or wakeboard in restricted areas.
- Do not use drugs or alcohol while driving a boat, water skiing or wakeboarding.

## Injury Facts



- The most common water skiing injuries are sprains and strains.
- Legs are injured the most often while water skiing.
- Cuts are the most common wakeboarding injury.
- Head and face injuries are the most common for wake boarders.
- Wake boarders are more likely to have a traumatic brain injury than water skiers.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) can harm and even kill you inside or outside your boat!
- CO symptoms are similar to seasickness or alcohol intoxication.
- CO can affect you whether you're underway, moored, or anchored.
- You cannot see, smell, or taste CO.
- CO can make you sick in seconds. In high enough concentrations, even a few breaths can be fatal.

## Workplace Humor

- The light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off due to budget cuts.
  - If at first you don't succeed, delegate it.

## Picture of the Week



For Marine Corps specific please review MCO 5100.30B Off Duty Recreation Order  
MCO 5100.19F Marine Corps Traffic safety Program  
BO 5100.2L MCB Camp Pendleton Base Regulation  
For more information contact the Installation Tactical Safety Manager at (760)763-5332.

### Click on the following links for more information

<http://www.boat-ed.com/california/>

<http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/>

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/>

<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cirp-waterskiing-and-wakeboarding>

<http://www.pinterest.com/safetylinksinc/safety-humor/>

<http://workplacesafetyexperts.com/workplace-safety-jokes/workplace-humor/>

[http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/carbon\\_monoxide.aspx](http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/carbon_monoxide.aspx)

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