

NEVER



BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officers focus on boating under the influence during *Operation Dry Water*

**Lake County Sheriff's Office launches heightened enforcement of BUI laws,
June 27-29, 2014**

Polson, MT (June 27-29, 2014) – The Lake County Sheriff's Office will be participating in *Operation Dry Water* June 27-29, as part of a nationally coordinated effort to reduce the number of accidents and deaths related to boating under the influence (BUI).

During this three-day weekend, officers will be on the water reminding boaters about the dangers of boating under the influence and detecting boaters who are impaired.

Boating under the influence continues to be a major problem nationwide. In fact, the leading factor in boater deaths is alcohol use while boating¹. By participating in *Operation Dry Water*, the Lake County Sheriff's Office is doing our part to keep recreational boaters safe and reduce the number of accidents and deaths related to alcohol or drug use.

"Our agency encourages boaters to enjoy the boating season with friends and family, and we also encourage you to do it in a safe and responsible way," says Glenn Miller. "Drinking alcohol while on a boat can have serious, even deadly, consequences, and our goal is to make sure everyone is enjoying their time on the water and staying safe."

In MT, boaters whose blood alcohol content (BAC) level exceeds the state limit of .08 can expect to be arrested for BUI and face other serious penalties including having your vessel impounded, payment of fines, as well as possible jail time. *Operation Dry Water* patrols will include increased patrols, breathalyzer tests and boat inspections as well as boater education and outreach.

Operation Dry Water is a joint program of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, the U.S. Coast Guard and Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks. For more information on *Operation Dry Water*, please visit operationdrywater.org or www.lakemt.gov

The Mission of the Lake County Sheriff's Office is to enhance the quality of life in our county by working in partnership with the community we serve. We strive to promote safety, enforce the laws, safeguard the constitutional rights of all people.



The Lake County Unit provides regular and surrounding enforcing State and local

calls for assistance, provide emergency medical aid, investigate water related accidents as well as educate the public in safe boating practices. If you have any boating related questions, want boating safety material or information on upcoming boating events or information on boating classes, please contact us at marineenforcement@lakemt.gov or at the following number, (406)-883-7301, and we will answer your questions or guide you to the resource you may need.

Marine Enforcement Unit

Marine Enforcement boat patrols of the lakes shoreline, and islands, laws. In addition we answer

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 76 million American boaters.

The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.