



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

Boating Enforcement

Location of Incident: Yuma County

The summer season is upon us and with it comes an increase in activity on our water ways. For that reason, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, along with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, will be increasing patrols on the lakes and water ways throughout the summer months.

During the upcoming Memorial holiday weekend, Deputies will be actively working to enforce the laws and conducting details on our water ways as well as throughout Yuma County. Some of the behaviors that deputies watch for on the water are reckless operation, bow riding and other violations which risk operator and rider safety. Remember to use common sense when operating a vessel. This means operating at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas. Be alert at all times; be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there for one reason only--to ensure your own boating safety.

Avoid alcohol when operating a vessel. Operating a vessel under the influence could cause serious injury and even death to you or others. Practice boating safety at all times by saving the alcohol for later. The probability of being involved in a boating accident doubles when alcohol is involved.

Arizona's Top 10 Boating Violations

1. Not enough life jackets (personal flotation devices) for everyone on board the vessel.
2. Fire extinguisher--lack of, non-marine type, and/or out of service.
3. Riding on the bow, transom, or gunwales of a vessel operating above a wake less speed.
4. Operating under the influence (OUI).
5. Excessive wake or speed.
6. No Type IV throw able PFD on board.
7. Children 12 years of age or younger not wearing a life jacket (PFD) while underway.
8. Reckless operation of a personal watercraft.
9. Lights--specifically no or incorrect navigation lights.
10. Waterskiing without an observer.

For more information regarding the Arizona Boating Laws & Responsibilities, visit the Arizona Game & Fish Department website at http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/boating.shtml or to download the boater's handbook, visit http://www.boat-ed.com/az/handbook/pdf_index.htm

Information Released by – Alfonso Zavala, Public Information Officer