



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date:

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Dodge County Sheriff's Office reminds boaters –

On the road or on the water, you're going nowhere if you are impaired

Nationwide crackdown on boating under the influence during Operation Dry Water.

With the recreational boating season in full swing, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office is ramping up its enforcement efforts as part of a national crackdown on boating under the influence. The nationwide awareness and enforcement campaign, Operation Dry Water, is a partnership of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the U.S. Coast Guard with a mission of putting an end to impaired boating. The goal of Operation Dry Water is to raise awareness about the dangers of boating under the influence and to reduce the number of accidents and deaths attributed to impaired boating.

June 24-26, 2016, just prior to the July 4th holiday, law enforcement nationwide will show zero tolerance for boating under the influence. Boaters can expect to see an increase in the numbers of officers on the water. The goal of all law enforcement involved is to remove impaired operators from the waterways and secure a safe and enjoyable boating experience for those on the water.

"We know there will be a lot of boaters out enjoying the warmer weather and we want boaters to know we will be out making sure the water stays safe for them to enjoy," said Deputy Scott Petrack "Just as drinking and driving on the road is illegal and dangerous, we want to emphasize that drinking and boating is equally as dangerous and can lead to equal consequences as well, including arrests, termination of voyage, serious injuries and even death."

Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in recreational boating deaths in the United States. Whether a person is operating a car on the road or a boat on the water, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and can lead to serious consequences for operators and passengers alike. In Wisconsin it is illegal to operate a vessel with a blood alcohol concentration level of [.08 or higher] – the same as it is to operate a vehicle. If you are found to be impaired and operating a boat, you will be arrested.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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