

UC Monthly Safety Spotlight, May 2012

Avoiding Heat-Related Illness and Injury

Enjoy the Water Safely This Summer!

Safety for Children

- Pools and ponds should be securely fenced, and children should never be unsupervised near a pool - including wading pools - even for a second.
- A small child can drown in just a few inches of water, so be sure there's no standing water left in buckets, bins, coolers and other containers.
- Monitor small children carefully around bathtubs, hot tubs and spas. Most childhood drownings occur inside the house.

Boating Safety

- Do you know the proper actions to take when two vessels are meeting, crossing paths or in a passing situation? Take the time to learn navigation "rules of the road" and other boating safety strategies.
- Wear a life jacket, and note that in California, children under 13 years old must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket on recreational vessels underway, unless they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin. The California Department of Boating and Waterways offers good safety advice: *"Of the boating fatalities that occurred in 2009, 67 percent of the victims drowned. Of that group, 84 percent were not wearing a life jacket. Don't become a statistic, wear a life jacket. Life jackets are the proven number one way to save a life in the event of a sudden, unexpected capsizing or fall overboard. Wear a life jacket."* Read about proper use of life jackets at <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/LifeJacketInfo.aspx>
- Before you take off for boating, swimming or fishing, let people know where you will be and when you expect to return.
- Combining alcohol and boating can lead to tragedy. Do not drink alcoholic beverages when you're out on the water.
- Do not allow anyone on a boat's rear platform or in the water near the rear of the boat if the motor is on (even if it is idling). Gasoline powered motors (and houseboat generators) emit carbon monoxide fumes that can cause serious injury or death. Read the article on carbon monoxide poisoning from ski-boat exhaust on The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5137a3.htm>

Additional Water Safety Resources

- California Boating and Waterways Safe Boating Correspondence Course <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/boatsafecourse.aspx>
- Childhood Drowning Prevention Advice from SafeKids.org <http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-resources-by-risk-area/drowning/>

Visit the California Department of Boating and Waterways website for a wide range of safety information, including the ABCs of California Boating publication (right). This booklet includes information about waterway markings, emergency and accident procedures, required equipment, operational law and much more. <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Abc/>

