

Boating and Water Safety Fact and Resources Sheet

Sacramento County and the California Delta

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

2009 STATISTICS

Sacramento Fire Department's open water drowning incident statistics indicate that nine drowning incidents occurred in the rivers. None of the victims were under the age of 13.

LAW

In Sacramento County, all children under the age of 13 must wear a properly fitting life jacket while in natural water ways.

DELTA

2009 BOATING STATISTICS

County	Accidents	Injuries	Dead
Contra Costa	28	27	5
Sacramento	6	6	2
San Joaquin	45	27	3
Solano	3	2	0
TOTALS	82	62	10

Of the 10 boating fatalities that occurred in the Delta, five drowned. Of those victims, none were wearing life jackets.

LAWS

- As of this year, the California boating law now requires all children under the age of 13 to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. (Used to be "under age 12".)
- Everyone on board a personal watercraft (popularly known as "jet skis") or being towed behind a vessel must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- Inflatable life jackets are to be used only by boaters over the age of 16 and are not approved for use while water skiing or being towed on water-skis, aquaplane or similar devices.

RESOURCES

WEAR IT CALIFORNIA: Through a federal funded driven campaign, more than 800 inflatable life jackets will be distributed to boaters at 10 different events along the Delta this summer to those who pledge to wear their life jacket at all times while boating (while supplies last). [Click here for more information.](#)

LIFE JACKET TRADE-IN: Water enthusiasts are invited to bring their old, outgrown or unserviceable life jackets for inspection by water safety professionals at the 11th Annual Life Jacket Trade-In, May 28 from 4-6 p.m. at participating locations. If a life jacket is found to be unserviceable, a new one of the appropriate size and fit will be given in exchange (while supplies last). [Click here for more information.](#)