

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release



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2005 Tri-State Boating Safety Fair coming to the Colorado River

PHOENIX — Grab your kids, invite your friends, bring sunscreen and haul your boat over to the 2005 Tri-State Boating Safety Fair on the Colorado River on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bullhead City Community Park in Arizona.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Nevada Department of Wildlife are hosting the fair for the second year in a row. The three states border the Colorado River and share the common goal of promoting and maintaining safety along the river.

Certain strips along the Colorado River have become year-round recreation draws for boaters, water-skiers, anglers and many other water sports enthusiasts. "Because of the natural boundaries that exist on the river, many boaters and other visitors are not aware of the different state laws that pertain to boating. As a result of this lack of knowledge and sometimes just carelessness, every year dozens of people are injured or killed along the Colorado," says Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director of the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

The fair will introduce visitors to the different state laws that govern use of the Colorado River. Visitors will also learn about boating dangers, such as excessive speed, alcohol abuse on the water, and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Visitors will also receive a "goodie bag" with information about boating laws in all three states bordering the river (Arizona, California and Nevada) and free promotional items such as key chains and coffee mugs.

Activities at the fair will include an opportunity to win a speedboat, search and rescue demonstrations, and free boat safety checks. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be inspecting life jackets from 10 a.m.–11 a.m. The first 100 boaters whose life jackets are found unusable will be eligible for new replacement jackets (one per family while supplies last).

"What is unique this year is that the 'goodie bags' will also be distributed at 27 different boat launch ramps along the Colorado River, including sites in all three bordering states. We want to reach as many people as possible this year with boat safety information before the boating season," says Kevin Bergersen, Arizona's boating law administrator. Boating officials and law enforcement officers from each state will be at all participating launch ramps to hand out the bags and answer safety questions.

The launching fee at Bullhead City Community Park during the main event will be \$5 for Arizona residents with boats and \$15 for non-residents with boats.

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Note to media: You can learn more about the fair at <http://www.BoatColoradoRiver.com/>. High-resolution photos from the 2004 event are available by contacting June Iljana at the California Department of Boating and Waterways at (916) 263-0788.