

THE COLORADO RIVER

This 233-mile stretch of the Colorado River has become a year-round recreation area for power boaters, paddlers, water-skiers and fishermen. To enjoy a safe trip on the Colorado, boaters need to become familiar with the characteristics of the area that make boating on this desert waterway unique.

The state lines of California, Nevada and Arizona intersect in the Colorado River area. While many boating laws are the same in each state, a few laws differ and can be confusing to boaters.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Nevada Department of Wildlife teamed up to publish this Boating Safety Guide to provide basic information which will assist you in planning a safe and enjoyable trip on the Colorado River.

Every year, many people are injured or killed as a result of operator inattention, boating under the influence, illegal skiing practices, and traveling at excessive speeds often at night, in congested waters, or around blind curves in the river.

Operator inexperience is another problem in the region. Boaters often do not know the proper action to take when approaching other boaters in crossing or head-on situations. This is especially important on this congested waterway.

Another dangerous practice is bow riding, which is both unsafe and illegal. Passengers riding on the front of a boat can be killed or severely injured by a boat's propeller if they fall, slip or are thrown into the water. The law restricts riding on the bow, gunwale or transom of a powerboat where there is no protective railing or other deterrent to falling overboard or if riding on the bow is an obvious danger.

Make sure you enjoy your trip to the Colorado River. Remember that if it's your boat, it's your responsibility to become familiar with the laws and characteristics of the area--the following chart displays common boating laws and each state's requirements. You should also take a boating safety course. Taking a course will help you keep everyone safe, help you avoid a citation, and possibly even get you a discount on your boat insurance. For more information on boating safety courses or classes visit www.BoatColoradoRiver.com. Remember, Safe Boating is BIG Fun!



KNOW THE LAW

| | | Arizona | California | Nevada |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Operator Age, Education and Supervision | | Watercraft With Motors Greater Than 8hp: The operator must be at least 12 years of age. An operator under the age of 12 must have direct on board supervision by a person who is at least 18 years old. | Watercraft with motors greater than 15hp and sailboats exceeding 30' in length: Operator must be at least 16 years old. Operators between the ages of 12 -15 must have a person 18 or older on board for supervision. | Motorboats with motors of 15hp or greater on interstate waters: Any operator, born on or after Jan. 1, 1983, must possess proof of completion of a NASBLA approved boating course if operating on Nevada's interstate waters, including but not limited to Lake Mead, Lake Mojave, Lake Tahoe, Topaz Lake and Sections of the Colorado River System. PWC: The operator must be at least 14 years of age and comply with the requirement above. |
| Life Jacket Rules | All Watercraft: | One type I, II, III, or V life jacket (of proper size and fit) for each person on board. Vessels 16' or longer must carry at least one type IV life jacket, except canoes and kayaks. | One type I, II, III or V life jacket (of proper size and fit) for each person on board. Vessels 16' or longer must carry at least one type IV life jacket. | (except sailboards): One Type I, II, III, or V life jacket (of proper size and fit) for each person on board. Vessels 16' or longer must carry at least one Type IV life jacket. |
| | Age Required To Wear: | A person, age 12 or younger, must wear a Type I, II, III, Life jacket while the vessel is underway. When wearing a life jacket, all closures must be secured according to the manufacturer's design. | 11 and under must wear Type I, II, III, or V life jacket when on vessel of 26' or less while underway. | Children under 13 must wear a life jacket when the watercraft is underway, except when inside an enclosed cabin. |
| | PWC: | Each person on board must wear a life jacket. | Each person on board must wear a Type I, II, III or V life jacket. | The operator and all passengers must wear a life jacket. |
| | Towed Devices: | Each person being towed must wear a life jacket, buoyant belt, or other flotation aid. If a buoyant belt or flotation aid is used, a life jacket must be on board the towing vessel for each person being towed. | Each person being towed must wear a Type I, II, III, V life jacket. | Each person being towed must wear a life jacket. |
| Towing Others | Flag: | International orange or red ski flag, at least 12" by 12." Ski flag must be prominently displayed (ONLY) when a skier is down or in the water preparing. | International orange or red ski flag, at least 12" x 12" | International orange ski flag, at least 12" x 12." |
| | Observer: | Must be on board towing vessel and at least 12 years old. | Must be on board towing vessel and at least 12 years old. | Must be on board towing vessel. Must be at least 12 years of age. Observer may be age 10 if a person 21 years of older is on board the towing vessel. Displays the ski flag when the skier is down. |
| | Time: | Allowed sunrise to sunset. | Allowed sunrise to sunset | Allowed sunrise to sunset. |
| | Vessel Capacity | | | The towing vessel must have sufficient capacity, rated for three or more persons. |
| | Other | | | The operator must be at least 14 years of age, except when the operator is age 12 or 13. Then, a person, age 21 or older, on board the towing vessel for supervision. |
| Other Rules | BUI: | .08 BAC. | .08 BAC | .08 BAC |

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BOATING SAFETY HINTS

- Wear a life jacket
- Take a boating safety class
- Carry all your required safety gear
- Know your boat and its limitations
- Follow the boating "rules of the road"
- Be aware of weather and water conditions
- Boat sober and be considerate of other boaters
- Keep the waterways clean



www.BoatColoradoRiver.com



Arizona Game & Fish Department
www.azgfd.gov
602/942-3000



California Department of Boating and Waterways
www.dbw.ca.gov
888/326-2822



Nevada Department of Wildlife
www.boatnevada.org
702/486-5127



TRI-STATE COLORADO RIVER



BOATING SAFETY GUIDE

SAFE BOATING IS BIG FUN!



NAVIGATION RULES AND AIDS

The main purpose of navigational rules is to prevent collisions and other avoidable accidents, such as grounding in poor visibility, injuring people in the water, and damaging property.

While under way, boat operators are required to keep a proper lookout for other vessels, light and sound signals, obstructions, and swimmers.

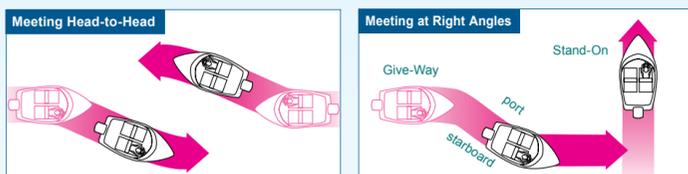
- Do not enter restricted areas and do not moor to buoys other than a specially marked mooring buoy.
- Never obstruct or anchor in a channel, launching area, or route, or interfere with the travel of other boats.
- Do not exceed 5 miles per hour within 100 feet of a swimmer, or 200 feet of a swimming beach, a swimming float, a diving platform, a lifeline, or a dock with boats tied to it.
- Whenever you are traveling through a narrow channel or coming around a bend where it is hard to see oncoming traffic, always keep to the right side.

BOAT-TO-BOAT COMMUNICATION

- You have three ways to communicate between vessels: Light signals, sound signals, and radio. The most common method is radio, but you also need to know how to communicate using light and sound.

MEETING A BOAT HEAD-TO-HEAD

- Signal your intention to pass port to port by sounding one short (1-second) blast of the horn.
- Signal your intention to pass starboard to starboard by sounding two short (1-second) blasts.
- When using a light signal at night, a 1-second light flash equals a 1-second sound blast.



WHEN APPROACHING AT RIGHT ANGLES AND AT RISK OF COLLISION

- The boat on the right is the **stand-on** vessel—the other boat is the **give-way** vessel.
- The stand-on is the privileged vessel and must hold its course and speed.
- The give-way vessel must direct its course to starboard and pass the stand-on vessel astern. If necessary, the give-way vessel should slow, stop, or reverse.
- You should **never** turn your vessel to port during a crossing situation. Doing so may result in a serious collision.

