

Colorado Boating Safety Program



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Who We Are

- Grant Brown (Program Manager and CO Boating Law Administrator)
- Michael Haskins (Swiftwater Investigator)
- Brian Phillips (Flatwater Investigator)



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Sections

- Statewide Patrols
- Boating Incident/Collision Investigations
- Marine Evidence Recovery Team (MERT)
- Boating Safety Education and Outreach
- Training (boat handling, swift water and ice rescue)
- River Outfitter Licensing (ROL) Program
- Administration of the US Coast Guard (USCG) Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) grant



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USCG RBS Grant Administration

- Receive approximately \$1.4 million annually in grant funding
- Requirements for federal funding:
 - Vessel numbering system
 - Boat Incident reporting database
 - Boating Safety Education Program
 - Boating enforcement program
 - Cooperative agreement with the USGC
 - Harmonization between state and federal laws
 - Submission of annual reports to the USCG



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Future Regulations -USCG Compliance

- Updating laws for engine cut-off switches (ECOS) on motorized vessels
- Updating laws for USCG approved fire extinguishers



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River Outfitter Licensing (ROL) Program

- Program created in 1987
- Currently 209 river outfitters in Colorado
- Regulate guide qualifications
- Conduct river safety inspections
- ROL Advisory Committee (2 outfitters and CPW designee)
- Investigate all ROL related boating incidents that involve serious bodily injury (SBI) or death



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Training



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Investigations

- Boat collision reconstructions
- Investigate boating incidents that involve major damage, SBI, or death
- Illegal river outfitting
- Enter all USCG reportable boating incidents in USCG database (BARD)



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Fatality Stats 2020-2023

- 2020: 34
 - 13 paddle craft, 7 motorized/sail, 7 swimming, 7 other
- 2021: 22
 - 8 paddle craft, 2 motorized, 5 swimmers, 7 other
- 2022: 38 (deadliest year)
 - 12 paddle craft, 5 motorized, 12 swimmers, 9 other
- 2023: 31
 - 21 paddle craft, 1 motorized, 3 swimmers, 6 other



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USCG Statistics showed 80% of all boating fatalities could have been prevented with the use of a life jacket



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2024 By the Numbers

- As of July 9th there have been 28 water related fatalities
 - 18 involved a vessel
 - 15 paddle craft [canoe, kayak, raft, stand-up paddle board (SUP), etc.]
 - 7 flat water and 8 swift water related
 - 3 motorized vessels
 - 8 swimmers
 - 2 other



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Marine Evidence Recovery Team



Marine Evidence Recovery Team (MERT)

- CPW statewide response team
 - 14 members, 4 regions
- Sonar and remote operated vehicles (ROVs) for the recovery of underwater evidence
- Respond within 24 hours anywhere in the state



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Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs)



VideoRay Pro 4



VideoRay Pro 5



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Statewide Patrols

- Flatwater Patrol
 - 2 person team
 - Primarily patrol lakes outside of CPW parks and areas
 - Enforce boating safety laws (funded by the USCG grant)
- Swiftwater Patrol
 - 2-3 statewide river rangers
 - Float rivers to enforce ROL



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Mandatory Boater Education

- Ages 14-17
- Operation of motorized vessels
- In effect June 2024
- Non-Enforcement Year
- \$15 course fee through CPW



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Life Jacket Loaner Stations/Awareness



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Boating Safety Education Booths

- International Sportsmen's Expo
- Denver Boat Show



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Challenges

- Lack of knowledge about cold water immersion
- Paddlers being separated from their craft
- Marketing by leading paddle board companies
- Innovation outpacing legislation



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ISUPS & DOCKS

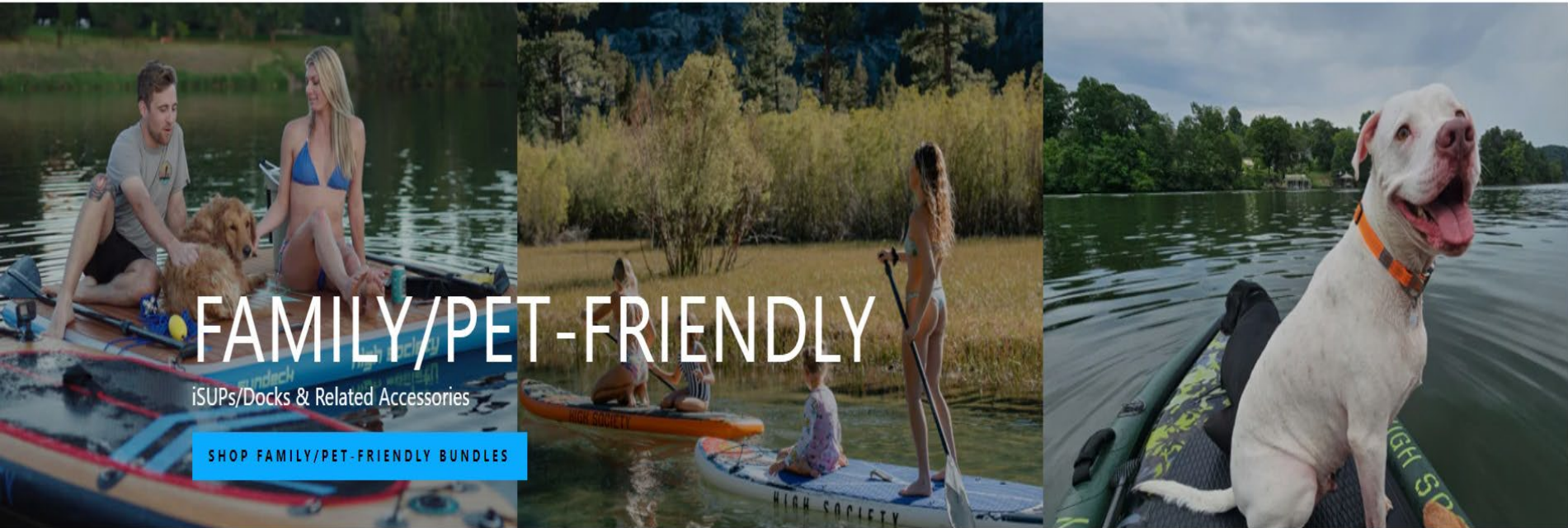
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04/13/21

: #outside #colorado

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12V 30Ah 2-4 hr run time

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