

THE COLORADO RIVER

This 223-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 congruent, a few laws differ and can be confusing to boaters.

This is why 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.

Safe Boating is Big Fun, so take a boating safety course.

Arizona, California and Nevada offer free boating safety courses and safety guides. Taking a course may also get you a discount on your boat insurance. The chart below displays common boating law and each state's requirements.



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.
PFD Rules	All Watercraft:	1 type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person on board. Vessels 16' or longer must carry at least one type IV PFD, except canoes and kayaks.	1 type I, II, III or V PFD for each person on board. Vessels 16' or longer must carry at least 1 type IV PFD.	(except sailboards): 1 Type I, II, III, or VPFD for each person on board. Vessels 16' or longer must carry at least 1 Type IV PFD.
	Age Required To Wear:	A person, age 12 or younger, must wear a Type I, II, III, PFD while the vessel is underway. When wearing a PFD, all closures must be secured according to the manufacturer's design.	11 and under must wear Type I, II, III, or V PFD when on vessel of 26' or less while underway.	Children under 12 must wear a PFD when the watercraft is underway, except when inside an enclosed cabin.
	PWC:	Each person on board must wear a PFD.	Each person on board must wear a Type I, II, III or V PFD.	The operator and all passengers must wear a PFD.
	Towed Devices:	Each person being towed must wear a PFD, buoyant belt, or other flotation aid. If a buoyant belt or flotation aid is used, a PFD must be on board the towing vessel for each person being towed.	Each person being towed must wear a Type I, II, III, V PFD.	Each person being towed must wear a PFD.
Towing Others	Flag:	International orange or red ski flag, at least 12" by 12."	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.	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.	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

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



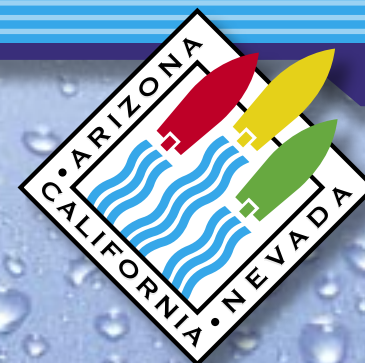
Arizona
Game & Fish
Department
azgfd.com
602/942-3000



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 avoid-able 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.

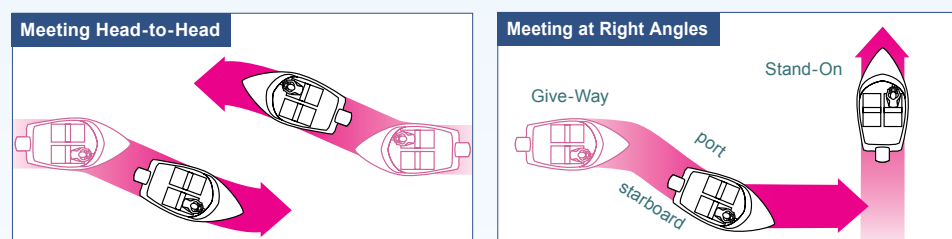
- Do not enter restricted areas and do not moor to buoys other than a specially marked mooring buoy.
- Never obstruct or anchor in a channel, launching area, or route, or interfere with the travel of other boats.
- Do not exceed 5 miles per hour within 100 feet of a swimmer, or 200 feet of a swimming 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's 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.

