



Media Alert

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BENNY N. NAPOLEON
Sheriff

Contact: Paula Bridges 313.354.5223

For immediate release

Sheriff's Marine Unit focuses on safe boating

(April 21, 2014) --With the start of the boating season, Wayne County Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon cautions Metro Detroit boaters and swimmers to use common sense to help stay safe.

“Follow the boating laws, wear a life jacket, pay attention to what’s going on around you, know the weather conditions and where the shallow spots are,” Napoleon said. “These may seem like basic tips but using basic safety precautions can help you have a good experience on the water.”

Napoleon notes that the Marine Unit’s investigation of two recent incidents emphasizes how *wrong actions* can lead to dangerous situations on the water.

On Friday, April, 18, 2014, the Marine Unit returned to an area of Lake St. Clair near Grosse Pointe Shores to resume searching for a Detroit man reported missing after an 18-foot fishing boat was reported capsized on April 13. Despite diving efforts and the use of sonar scanning equipment, officers were unsuccessful in locating the missing man and the search was called off around 3 a.m. on Monday, April 14. The accident remains under investigation.

In another incident that occurred earlier this month, the Marine Unit responded after two fishing boats collided near Trenton because the boaters were reportedly not paying attention to their surroundings. Alcohol was not considered to be a factor.

The Marine Unit patrols the waters in Wayne County, including Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, Lake Erie and Belleville Lake. This includes 38 miles of international border and 140 square miles of water. Officers are assigned on a part-time basis.



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In 2013, the Marine Unit enforced boating laws, assisted boaters and educated hundreds of boaters on safety measures.

2013 Marine Unit Stats

Boat inspections	889
Search and Rescue	13
Boaters Assist	10
OWI arrests	3
Warrants arrests	4
Boating Safety Students	663
ORV Safety Students	1344

The Marine Unit conducts boating safety programs at various public schools as well as evening classes open to the public. The next class is scheduled May 20 and 27. Call 734-675-2660 for more information and to sign up.

2014 Boating Class Schedule:

May 20 and 27
June 17 and 24
July 15 and 22
August 19 and 26
Sept 9 and 16

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Sheriff Napoleon is available to interview on the importance of the Wayne County Marine Unit in this region. Please contact (313) 224-0634 to make arrangements.