

Fact Sheet

Colorado River

The lower Colorado River system is shared by three states: Arizona, California and Nevada.

The lakes, reservoirs and river stretches that make up the Colorado River system make it one of the most popular recreational boating systems in the United States.

It attracts recreational boaters in staggering numbers and creates party atmospheres. The popularity of this river unfortunately results in significant numbers of boating accidents every year.

If taken as its own boating entity, the Colorado River system is the second most dangerous waterway in America, including the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.



Boating Accident Statistics -- 2011

STATE	ACCIDENTS	INJURIES	FATALITIES
Arizona	122	92	9
California	25	24	4
Nevada	63	28	7
TOTALS	210	144	20

Contributing Factors for Accidents

State lines artificially slice up the system, and boating laws can be confusing to boaters.

Inattention and speed in congested space.

Crowded or blocked navigation areas reduce maneuvering space.

Party atmospheres create environments of distraction and danger.

Effects of alcohol while boating are amplified by motion and heat.

Other Interesting Facts

Fatalities

Fatalities on the Colorado River were five times higher than in 2010 than in 2011. The majority of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets.

Colorado River Boaters

Most operators traveled distances of 200-300 miles from their homes to the spots where accidents occurred.

Yearly, about 80% of operators on the Colorado River come from California. Primarily from the following counties: Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.