

TOWING TIPS FOR SAFE OPERATION

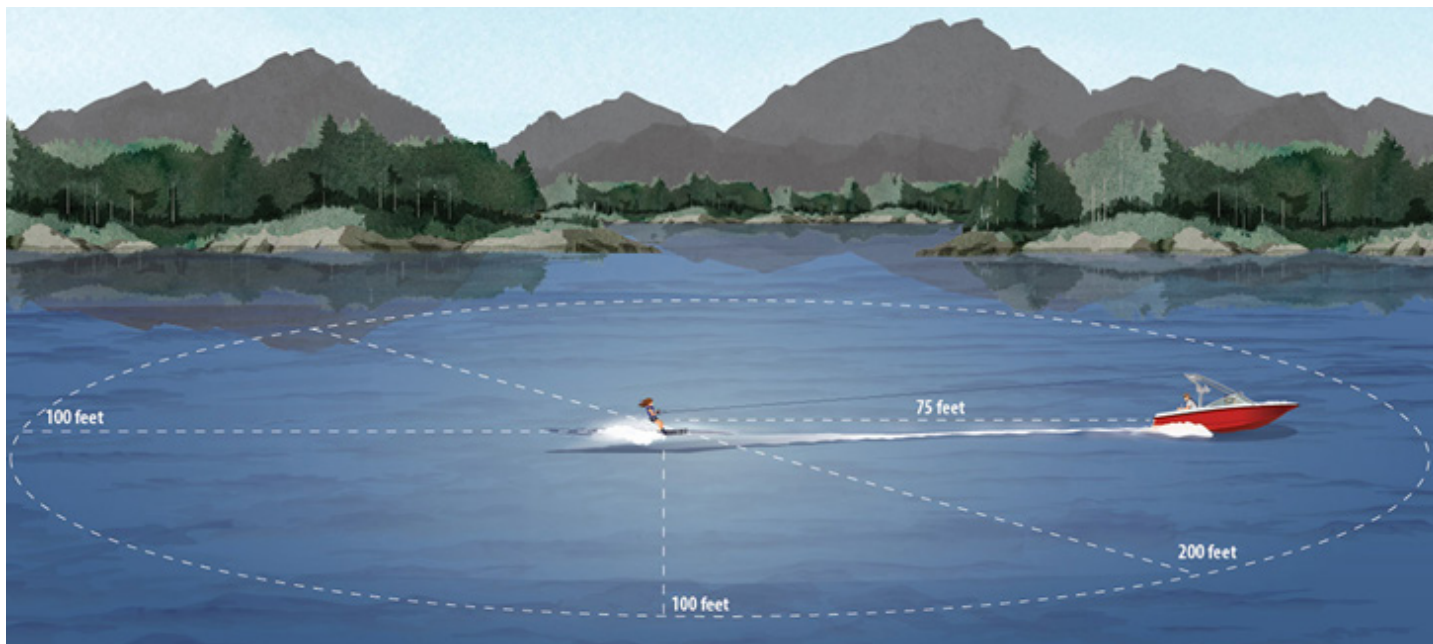
Safe water sports operation requires common sense and good judgment.

Boats used for towing sports are usually fast and powerful.

- Know your boat and its performance characteristics, its control features and its limitations.
- Drinking alcoholic beverages, taking prescription drugs and over the counter medications, or using illegal drugs can contribute to impaired judgment. Never operate a vessel while intoxicated - it is dangerous and illegal.
- Keep the skier, wakeboarder, tuber, or wakesurfer away from dangerous areas or conditions. The person behind the boat is an extension of that boat!
- Before turning, look to each side and behind to make sure there is a clear path.
- Choose a safe location for the activity. Be aware of hazards and make sure there is enough room to operate within the rules of required distances.
- Always have the boat turned off when someone is entering the water or climbing back into the boat. Use the word "CLEAR" to make sure no one is in the water before starting the engine.
- Make sure the tow rope is not tangled around the skier prior to accelerating the boat.
- Passengers must sit in the moving boat and never dangle limbs over the side, front or back of the boat.
- When wakeboarding and wakesurfing, watch your wake and avoid damage to other boats, docks, and shoreline. Empty ballast tanks when not towing someone.

WAKE SURFING

This activity requires a much larger and more powerful wake than one created in connection with other boating activities. Large wakes are created by boats with ballast and large displacement imposes increased risk of personal injury and damage to other boats, docks, and shoreline thru erosion. Therefore, a vessel engaged in the act of wake surfing must be AT LEAST 200 FEET from bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys, and the shore. It is recommended that ballast tanks be empty when using the boat for other activities. Operators should be aware of their wake and are responsible for damage caused by it!



Towing ropes should be at least 75 feet in length. This will keep a safe distance between the rider being towed, the boat's propeller and the boat's engine fumes. Additionally, you should always maintain a 200-foot wide 'ski-corridor' (100 feet on either side and behind the person being towed). (Caption courtesy of BOATsmart!)



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



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DEEPCREEKLAKEPOA.COM

FOR PROBLEMS ON THE WATER, CALL...

Deep Creek Lake Manager
301-387-4112

Department of Natural Resources
Western Office
301-777-7771

Natural Resources Police Emergency Hotline
800-628-9944

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request. Inside photo courtesy of Water Sports Industry Association. Illustrations courtesy of BOATsmart!

This brochure is only a summary of Maryland's boating regulations. Please refer to COMAR for more detailed information.

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DEEP CREEK LAKE

WATERSPORTS SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!



TOW LIKE A PRO!

SAFETY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH





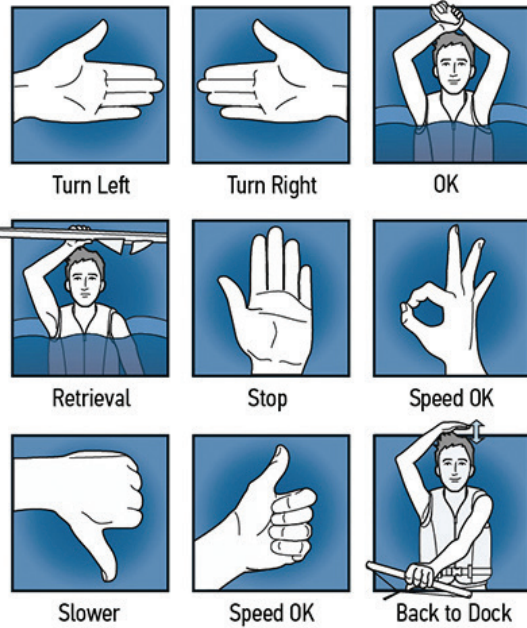
TOW SMART FROM THE START

Deep Creek Lake offers many wonderful boating opportunities including water skiing, wakeboarding, wake surfing, and tubing. With ever increasing numbers and sizes of boats, everyone must share the responsibility to operate their vessels in a legal and safe way for everyone involved. Courtesy to others sharing the waterway is a MUST.

This publication contains the regulations for towable watersports, including safety tips, and a map of Deep Creek Lake, showing where restrictions exist for towing water skiers, wakeboarders, and tubers. Wake surfers have different rules pertaining to distance due to the large wake generated while engaging in this water sport.



All vessels on Deep Creek Lake must adhere to the Regulations Specific to Deep Creek published by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



MARYLAND REQUIREMENTS FOR TOWABLE WATERSPORTS

- The operator of a vessel towing person(s) on water skis or any other similar device must be at least 12 years old.
- The observer in the towing vessel must be at least 12 years old and is responsible for keeping a proper lookout.
- All persons being towed behind a vessel on water skis, or any other similar device must WEAR a USCG-approved life jacket appropriate for that activity.
- It is illegal to operate any vessel, or manipulate any device being towed in a careless, reckless or negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of anyone involved.
- A vessel may not tow a person(s) on water skis or any other similar device after the hours of sunset to sunrise.
- Except for taking off from shore, the towing vessel must stay AT LEAST 100 FEET from bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys, and the shore when pulling a water skier(s), wakeboarder(s), or tuber(s).
- Wake surfers must be AT LEAST 200 FEET from the shore, bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys, etc.
- A personal watercraft must have the capacity to carry at least three people: the operator must be at least 16 years old, a rear-facing observer 12 years old, and the person being towed.
- Ski ropes may not be more than 75 feet long except when barefoot skiing, in which case a rope 100 feet long may be used.
- When using ballast for either wakeboarding or wake surfing, the combined weight of ballast and passengers may not exceed the maximum weight capacity of the boat as designated on the capacity plate.

