**PRESS ADVISORY**

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**Summer Health and Safety Advisory**

**Charleston, W.Va. –** With the increase in outdoor activities during the summer, the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) would like to remind everyone to please use alcohol responsibly. If you choose to drink alcohol and be outside you should be aware that sun and heat exposure can heighten the effects of alcohol and possibly have an unintended outcome. Some alcohol and mixers increase the possibility of dehydration. Alcohol interacts with our body by impacting our judgment, lowering our inhibitions, slowing our reaction time, and negatively affecting our coordination.

Many vehicle accidents (car, motorcycle, ATV, boat, etc.) are the result of the misuse of alcohol. Everyone should also consider that many falls, fires (grilling) and other accidents (fireworks) often are the result of the overconsumption of alcohol.

Recreational activities on or in the water pose a greater risk of injuries, accidents or death resulting from slips on watery surfaces, drownings, heat strokes, alcohol poisoning or boating collisions. Law enforcement will be present on West Virginia rivers and lakes throughout the summer with an increased enforcement presence during the summer holidays.

*Operation Dry Water* will occur July 2-4 with an aim of keeping everyone safe. In 2020, *Operation Dry Water* had contact with 2,023 vessels and 3,278 boaters. Over 200 warnings were issued, and 4 people were arrested for *Boating Under the Influence (BUI).* For more information on boater safety please visit: [West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (wvdnr.gov)](http://www.wvdnr.gov/)

While most bars and restaurants have returned to normal operations, we encourage everyone to follow the laws and please be safe.

The WVABCA would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy, and safe summer.

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