

Donner Lake prepping for busy boating season

With several other water ways experiencing historic low levels, Donner Lake is expected to be a popular destination for boaters.

However, officials are warning boaters that Donner Lake is very low as well.

“With the lower water levels there will likely be submerged hazards that were not near the surface last season. Pay particular attention while boating around the edges of the lake and familiarize yourself with any potential hazards before operating at speed,” the Truckee Police Department’s marine patrol officers said in a statement.

Here are some safety reminders:

- Best practice is for everyone to wear a personal flotation device that fits correctly.
- Do not consume alcohol when operating any vessel or recreating on the lake. The few seconds of delayed response and impaired judgment could have significant consequences.
- Boats on plane towing water skiers or traveling greater than 5 mph must travel in a counter clockwise direction.
- Obey all speed limits and be constantly scanning for other traffic and hazards.
- Have your boat serviced and inspected regularly to prevent any unnecessary emissions into the environment and to know your boat is safe to operate.
- Know the weather and the limitations of your vessel and the limitations of the operator.
- Review all boating laws and safe operating procedures. If you have not taken a Boaters Safety Course, consider

one online. Boating laws and information about training is online.

- Starting in 2014, all motorized watercraft launching into Donner Lake are required to have an aquatic invasive species inspection and inspection sticker. Hand launched watercraft like canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards are subject to inspection, but are currently exempt from the mandatory inspections and fees. However, these watercraft can also carry the invasive species and should be self-inspected before launching.

Access to Donner Lake is limited and several ramps are closed or have limited access based on trailer and vessel size. With fewer access points to launch, there will likely be lines and limited parking at the locations that are open.