



**DANGEROUS  
CURRENTS**



## WATER SAFETY TIPS

### PAY ATTENTION TO WARNING FLAGS



**Green = Go.** But stay aware of changing conditions.



**Yellow = Caution.** Watch for rip currents.



**Red = Stop.** Stay on the beach and out of the water.

- A red flag means that swimmers are in danger of drowning due to rip currents and other hazards.
- **Stay 150 feet away from piers and breakwalls.** Dangerous currents are often present near structures, regardless of weather conditions.

### DANGEROUS CURRENTS

Several types of dangerous currents, including rip currents, pull people away from shore and can quickly tire out even an Olympic swimmer.

#### **If caught in a dangerous current:**

- **Swim at an angle:** Swim toward shore at an angle, out of the current. If tired, switch between swimming and floating until you reach shore.
- **Stay calm:** Fear, panic and exhaustion can be a deadly combination. Focus on breathing and keeping your head above water.
- **If in danger:** Face the shore and call for help.

### YOUNG MEN MOST AT RISK

- According to the National Weather Service, young men are a high-risk group.
- Since 2002, nearly 70 people have died near structures. Experts advise staying away from piers and breakwalls at all times.

## HELPING SOMEONE ELSE

- Help from shore by throwing anything that floats, like a life ring or cooler to the person in trouble.
- Seek help from park staff, friends or others.
- If you go in the water to rescue someone, bring a flotation device. It can save you and the person in trouble.



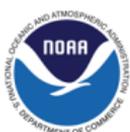
## BE A DESIGNATED WATER WATCHER

Pledge to closely watch the people in your group and not leave the area unless you designate another Water Watcher. Encourage children to wear a life jacket. Learn the signs of drowning so you know when to get help.

*If someone is in trouble:*

- Throw anything that floats, like a life ring or cooler to them.
- Encourage people in your group to avoid swimming near structures.
- If you must go in the water to rescue someone, bring something that floats.
- Join the Weather Ready Nation movement. Check the National Weather Service forecasts regularly for alerts about swimming conditions.

[www.dangerouscurrents.org](http://www.dangerouscurrents.org)



*Dangerous Current awareness is part of a state and regional effort led by Michigan Sea Grant in collaboration with the NOAA-National Weather Service, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and others. The MDEQ Coastal Management Program supported the development of many educational programs and public outreach products.*