

News Release



For Immediate Release
August 26, 2013

Contact: Kirk Coon
Phone No.: 530-342-5185
Email Address: kirk.coon@parks.ca.gov

Safety Advisory for Labor Day Weekend on the Sacramento River

Chico, CA (Aug. 26, 2013).--With Labor Day weekend right around the corner, several state, county and local agencies, as well as various community organizations, are working cooperatively to ensure public safety along the Sacramento River.

Tubing along the Sacramento River has been a summer pastime for many years in Chico and other surrounding areas. Attendees typically put in at the Irvine Finch launch ramp, float along the river to a popular stopping point, and eventually exit the river at Sacramento River Access at Pine Creek near Scotty's Landing.

Labor Day weekend shows a significant increase in participation when thousands of people flood the river with tubes, rafts, and other inflatable devices. Along with the increase in visitation, a sharp increase in alcohol related crimes, and aquatic rescues have been documented.

- This year, new state regulations and county ordinances have been enacted to control the possession and consumption of alcohol on and along the Sacramento River. These new laws are in effect Labor Day Weekend on and alongside the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge to the mouth of Big Chico Creek. These new restrictions include: On the Sacramento River, it is a violation to possess any alcoholic beverage.
- In Glenn and Butte Counties, it is a violation to consume alcohol or possess an open container holding alcohol along lands adjacent to the river.

It is also a violation to consume alcohol or to possess any glass container on State Park land between River Road and the Sacramento River along this stretch of the river.

While public safety organizations are working to provide for a safe environment for those still wanting to float down the river, local organizations are working to provide alternative forms of recreation. For example, the Campus Alcohol and Drug Education Center (CADEC) is promoting various concerts and activities for Chico State students. For more information on these campus activities, visit www.csuchico.edu/cadec.

Some general tubing safety tips include:

- Bring plenty of water to drink
- Don't tie tubes together
- Remember the river is extremely cold
- Leave alcohol at home
- Don't litter
- Wear shoes
- The river's current is swift
- Don't drink and float

###