



BE SAFE, HAVE FUN!

Southern Lake Michigan
Water Safety Task Force

Check the beach forecast before heading to the beach and plan to stay out of the water if dangerous waves or currents are expected.

Beach forecasts and Beach Hazards Statements from the National Weather Service can be found:

www.weather.gov/greatlakes/beachhazards



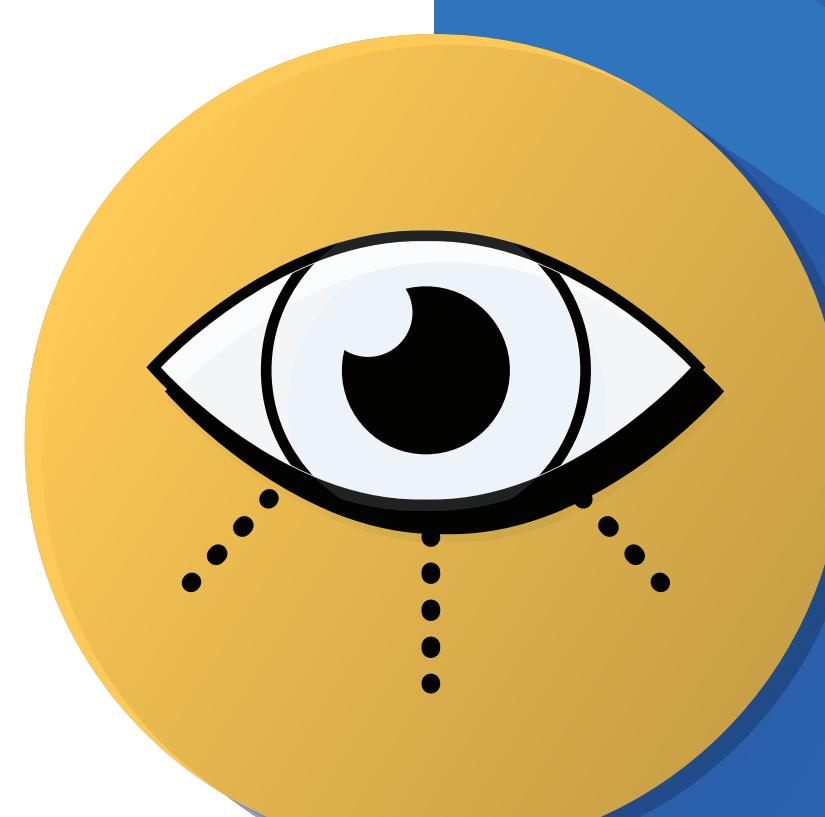
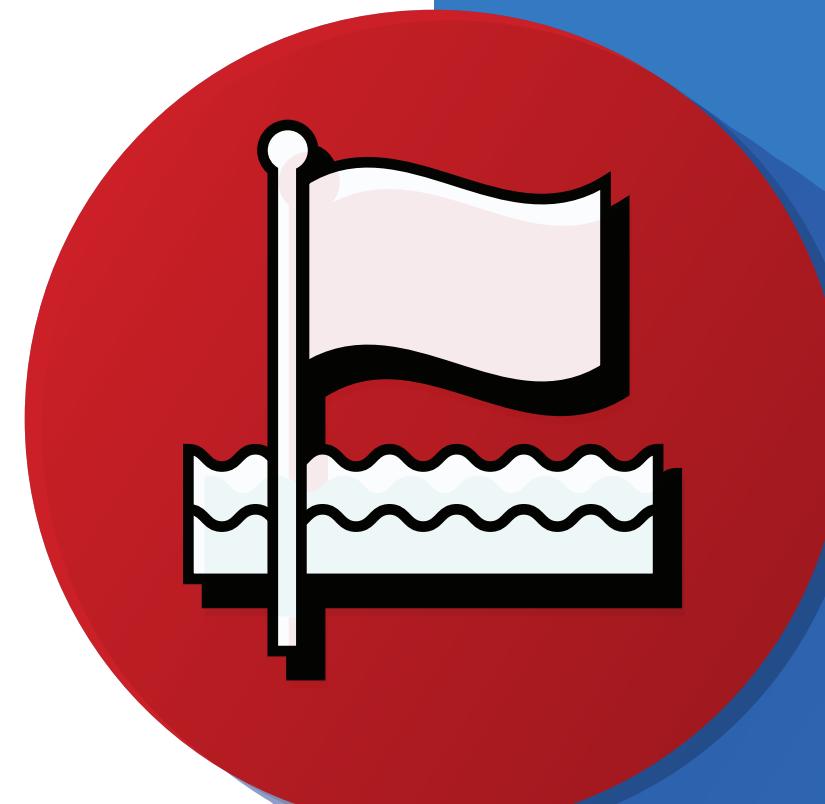
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For more information, please contact ldorwort@pnw.edu

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Tips to live by

- ✓ **Stay dry when waves are high.**
Waves are more powerful than you think and can cause injury. Never put your back to a wave. High, rapidly approaching waves leave little time to resurface if you're knocked over. Dangerous currents are also more likely when waves are higher than 3 feet. Toddlers can be knocked over in 2 foot waves.
- ✓ **Steer clear of the pier.**
Dangerous currents are almost always present near shoreline structures.
- ✓ **Heed warning flags, signs, lifeguards, and beach patrol.**
They are there to keep you safe.
- ✓ **Rock the jacket.**
Don't just bring it, wear it! Lifejackets will keep you afloat if you become exhausted.
- ✓ **Swim sober.**
Water and alcohol are a deadly combination.
- ✓ **Be a water watcher.**
Designate someone to watch kids and the elderly at all times.
- ✓ **Watch your step.**
Sandbars are always moving and can lure you dangerously far from shore. The water may be a few feet deep where you are and as much as 10 feet deep a few steps away.
- ✓ **If in doubt, stay out.**
Not all beaches are swimming beaches.
Know the rules!
- ✓ **Know before you go!**
Check local beach and marine forecasts at weather.gov/greatlakes/beachhazards.
- ✓ **Swim near an adult.**
Beaches with lifeguards are the best for safety as are other watchful adults.
- ✓ **Always swim with a buddy.**
Both of you will be safe if there are at least two of you.



Lake Michigan is a terrific place to enjoy a day at the beach. Unfortunately, a day of fun in the sun can quickly turn into a family tragedy. Rapidly changing conditions, an uneven lake floor, dangerous currents, and waves can catch even the most skilled swimmer off guard.



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