

# Summer Safety 101 Critical Days

Summer's first holiday weekend marks the beginning of 101 non-stop opportunities for relaxation, travel and fun. Beginning Memorial Day Weekend and not stopping until Labor Day your employees and students will seek out these good times with vigor. Vacations, days off and tropical hours increase access to the good times, challenging even the most safety conscious to avoid unnecessary risks, recognize hazards and observe basic safety precautions. For many, the critical days of summer are one huge mass of risk-taking destined to end in tragedy.

Thrill-seeking is at its highest as we respond to the promises of slick advertisements and we rent or buy the fastest Boat, Jet-Ski, Motorcycle, ATV, and Car available. Some will be content with the 75-foot drops, tethered only by bungee cords, and still others will drop thousands of feet, relaying on a hastily packed parachute to bring them safely back to earth. Scuba dives to 150-feet while only qualified to 30 feet, and not using the repetitive dive tables as they are designed. Cave diving with out the proper training or equipment. Rock climbing and hiking with little or no experience and no Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is another way to get a rush. For others putting the family car through their paces (NASCAR) style is a great way to relieve boredom without having to go to expensive places or buy a lot of equipment. Quick starts, excess speed, and no seat belts or helmets all add up to a rush. Add a six-pack or two and you're really on a roll.

Most fatalities last summer died because they were drunk. These people would be alive today if they hadn't let booze (liquid courage) affect their thought processes, decision-making abilities, perceptions and reactions. As a result they were not able to recognize hazards in a timely manner nor could they respond appropriately. No matter what the activity, common sense, observance of Safety Precautions and Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are essential to your survival. Risk Assessment and Risk Management is a necessary component of the process. If you haven't already thought about it, take a few minutes to determine how you can make the next 101-Days of summer less critical and safer for yourself, your family and your friends. Profit from the mistakes of others, DON'T REPEAT THEM.