



**Fresno County Sheriff's Department**  
**Richard Pierce, Sheriff**  
**News Release**

**May 21, 2003**

**Lt. Jeffrey Johnson**  
**(559) 488-3398**

**FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BOATING ENFORCEMENT UNIT TO ASSIST  
AT MILLERTON LAKE RECREATION AREA**

Sheriff Richard Pierce announced today that, in anticipation of the Memorial Day opening of the traditional boating season, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Boating Enforcement Unit will this summer be assisting within the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area. This measure is at the request of the California State Park Rangers. Sheriff's Department members will be working in partnership with the Rangers to maximize park visitor safety.

Joint efforts will target boating safety violations that last year contributed in part to two deaths upon Millerton Lake. Boating laws will be strictly enforced. Sheriff Pierce urges boaters to be familiar with these laws and other safety tips. The "The ABC's of Boating," a reference pamphlet published by the State of California, is available free of cost at Millerton Lake entrances and from Sheriff's Department Boating Enforcement Unit members, State Park Rangers, Sheriff's substations, and most area boating service centers and lake marinas.

The Sheriff's Boating Enforcement Unit is also present and working upon many other waterways within Fresno County, including Huntington Lake, Pine Flat Lake, Shaver Lake, the Kings River, and the San Joaquin River. The Boating Enforcement Unit, in addition to enforcing criminal and boating laws, also provides first responder rescue services, boating safety education, vessel and safety equipment inspections, and other crime prevention services.

Sheriff Pierce encourages boaters to prepare their vessels and safety equipment for the upcoming boating season. Before launching boats and personal watercraft, they should be inspected and serviced at a boating service center. Boaters already upon waterways may ask Sheriff's Boating Enforcement Unit members to perform a boating vessel and safety equipment field inspection.

Sheriff Pierce wishes all Fresno County boaters to have an enjoyable and safe summer.

**THERE WILL BE A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**MILLERTON LAKE – COURTHOUSE OVERLOOK**  
**(Enter off Millerton Road east of the Friant-Kern Canal)**

**Thursday, May 22, 2003 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Available for comments and interview at the press conference:**

Captain Jeff Hollis, Fresno County Sheriff's Department  
Lieutenant Kevin Buchanan, California Department of Parks & Recreation

**Members of the Sheriff's Boating Enforcement Unit will also be present with their equipment.**