

16th Annual Great Lakes Beach Association Conference

DROWNING: THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC

Practical Solutions for YOUR Beach

Bob Pratt

Director of Education

Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project



SCOPE



Winner of the NDPA's 2012
"Lifesaver of the Year" Award



The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project
has a single goal **TO SAVE LIVES**

CLASSES NEWS ROOM STATISTICS MEMBERSHIPS SUPPORT GLSRP GALLERY



Our teaching, our data, our passion will live
on in those **who share** our common goal...

SAVING LIVES!

Statistics

84 Great Lakes Drownings in 2016

Plus 4 Lake Michigan drownings listed in Critical Condition

522 Great Lakes Drownings since 2010 (+/-)

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Read about drowning statistics, upcoming classes, & water safety tips

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PURE MICHIGAN®



33 MILLION DOLLARS

City supervisor fired, another resigns in wake of Warwick City Park drowning

Probe concludes beach was understaffed by lifeguards when 6-year-old drowned, says Mayor Scott Avedisian



COMMENT

14

Recommend 0

Tweet

3



Woman Rescues Swimmers Caught in Rip Current in Lake Michigan

By CATHERINE THORBECKE · Sep 7, 2016, 11:48 AM ET

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[Share with Twitter](#)

SOURCE: JONT MUNI

CAUGHT ON CAMERA
EX-LIFEGUARD TO THE RESCUE
SEES SWIMMERS STRUGGLING IN LAKE MICHIGAN 



SAFER THREE



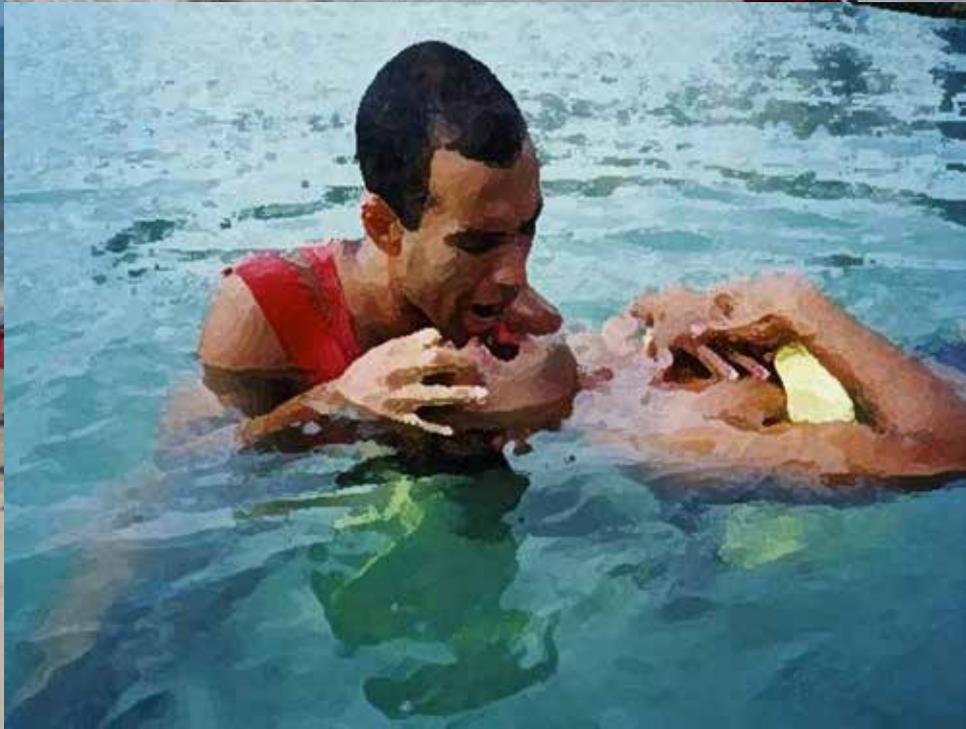














Beaches along Great Lakes to get life-saving aids



In a 2011 photo provided by the Michigan Sea Grant, a rescue line bag and ring buoy are seen from the Great Lakes Water Safety Conference 2011 in Gaylord, Mich. An effort to prevent people from drowning due to dangerous currents along the Great Lakes includes installing kits with life-saving aids including a ring buoy at 10 public beaches along Lake Michigan. Michigan Sea Grant announced Monday, May 19, 2014, that kits will be





Safer Water







HISTORIC GRAND HAVEN LIGHTHOUSE & SOUTH PIER

CAUTION

PIER SAFETY IS CRITICAL!
HAZARDS EXIST

- ROUGH SEAS
- HIGH WINDS
- SLIPPERY SURFACES
- DANGEROUS ROCKS BELOW WATER SURFACE

DANGER

WATER SAFETY IS CRITICAL!
WATER CONDITIONS CHANGE WITHOUT WARNING!

- RIP CURRENTS EXIST IN THE LAKE AND AROUND PIER STRUCTURE
- AVOID DIVING OR PIER JUMPING
- DEEP WATER AND DROP-OFFS
- AVOID BOATING TRAFFIC

THIS STRUCTURE WAS DESIGNED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU DO NOT PROCEED ONTO PIER STRUCTURE! PLEASE READ PIER SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS SIGN.



DAN BEITZ, AGE 19, OF GRAND HAVEN DIED ON NOVEMBER 29, 2005 AT 11:29 PM AFTER BEING HAZARDED BY THE PIER DURING ROUGH SEAS AND HIGH WINDS.



ANDY FOX, AGE 17, OF GRAND HAVEN DIED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 AT 5:00 PM AFTER BEING CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT.

FRANKFORT PIER SAFETY

PIER SAFETY GUIDELINES

- This is not public property, proceed at your own risk.
- Use caution if pier is wet or slippery, especially if waves wash over the pier or if storm conditions exist.
- Please, no bikes or skates.
- Use strollers & wheelchairs with caution.
- Diving or jumping from piers is not advised.

LIFESAVING DEVICES



FLotation RING
REMEMBER WHEN USING THE RING, HOLD AROUND THE RING IN THE WATER.



THROW ROPE
CAN BE THROWN TO VICTIM, ALONG WITH FLotation RING OR TIED AS A LINE TO RESCUE AN UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PULL THE VICTIM ASIDE BY THE ROPE. CALL FOR EMERGENCY SUPPORT.



CALL PHONE
CALL EMERGENCY AT 911 OR 988. CALL THE POLICE AT 226.4422. CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AT 226.4423. CALL THE COAST GUARD AT 226.4424.

PLEASE REPORT MIS-USE OR MISSING EQUIPMENT TO THE FRANKFORT POLICE DEPT.

IN MEMORY OF CALEB SUTTER

THE PIER SAFETY PROJECT

began after Caleb Sutter, a 15-year old Frankfort youth, was washed off of the Frankfort Pier and drowned, June 20, 2000.

In an effort to keep our piers available and safe to visitors and residents, funds were raised for these life-saving devices.

The Caleb Memorial Fund is an on-going project, with future contributions to be used to develop Water Safety Education in our schools, and equipment replacement. Donations are gratefully accepted at the Frankfort-Eberts Area Chamber of Commerce.



PORT WASHINGTON WISCONSIN NORTH BEACH

BEACH RULES

- All city ordinances are enforced on the beach including:
 - Beach closed 10PM to 6AM
 - Alcohol beverages are prohibited on all public beaches and parking lots
 - Dogs must be on a leash at all times
 - You are responsible to pick-up animal fecal matter
 - No vehicles on beach
 - No fires
 - No glass



DONATED BY PORT WASHINGTON LIONS CLUB

SWIMMING SAFETY AWARENESS

WARNING

**NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK**
DANGEROUS CURRENTS MAY BE PRESENT

- DON'T SWIM NEAR ROCKS OR BREAKWALL
- NEVER SWIM ALONE (HAVE A SWIM BUDDY)
- IT ONLY TAKES SECONDS TO DROWN (WATCH CHILDREN CLOSELY)

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN A DANGEROUS CURRENT

- KEEP CALM, DON'T PANIC
- FLIP, FLOAT, AND FOLLOW

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T GO OUT!

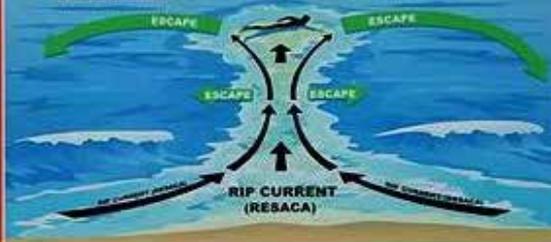


For more information regarding lake conditions, beach, and/or water safety:

www.weather.gov
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.GLSRP.org
www.wibeaches.us

Rip Currents | Escápese de la Resaca

1. Don't fight the current
No luche contra la corriente
2. Swim even with the shore until current weakens, then swim to shore
Nada al nivel de la orilla hasta que la resaca se debilite
3. If you can't escape, float or tread water
Si no logras escapar, manténgase a flote pedaleando
4. If you need help, call or wave for assistance
Si necesitas auxilio, grita o agita los brazos



DANGER - Shelf Ice | PELIGRO - Hielo Peligroso

1. The ice along the shore - Shelf ice - is not solid
El hielo a lo largo de la orilla - la capa de hielo - no es sólida
2. Do not walk on Shelf ice
No campear sobre el hielo
3. Death may occur
Puede causar muerte



DO NOT WALK ON SHELF ICE

FLAG SIGNAL SYSTEM

- RED FLAG ► NO SWIMMING HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS
- YELLOW FLAG ► CAUTION DANGEROUS CONDITIONS
- GREEN FLAG ► GOOD CONDITIONS



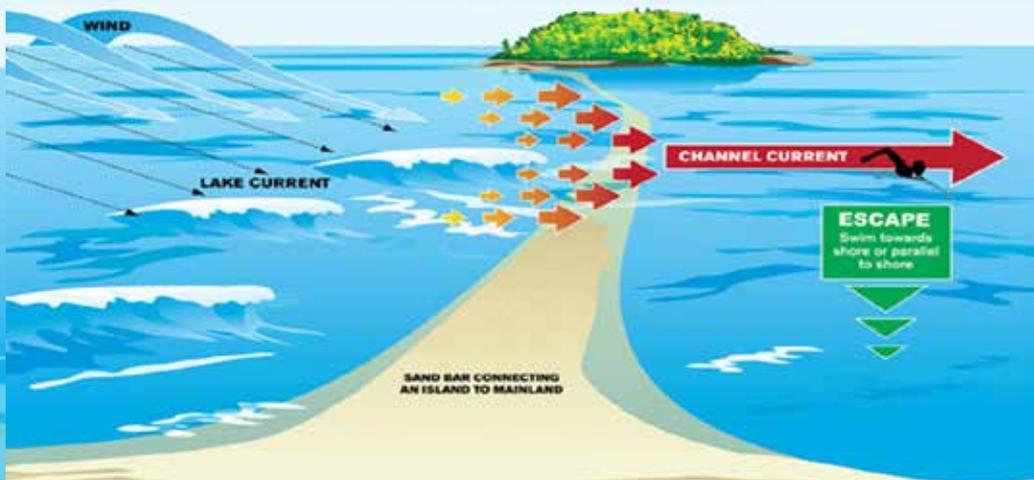
RIP CURRENTS



dangerouscurrents.org

Produced by Michigan Sea Grant College Program | MICH13-001

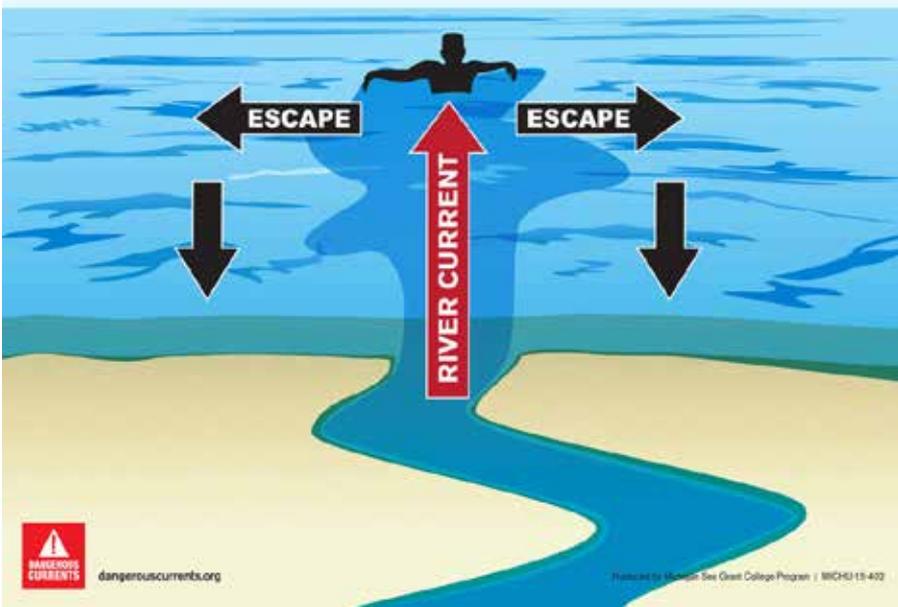
CHANNEL CURRENTS



www.mseagrant.umich.edu

Produced by Michigan Sea Grant College Program
MICH13-001

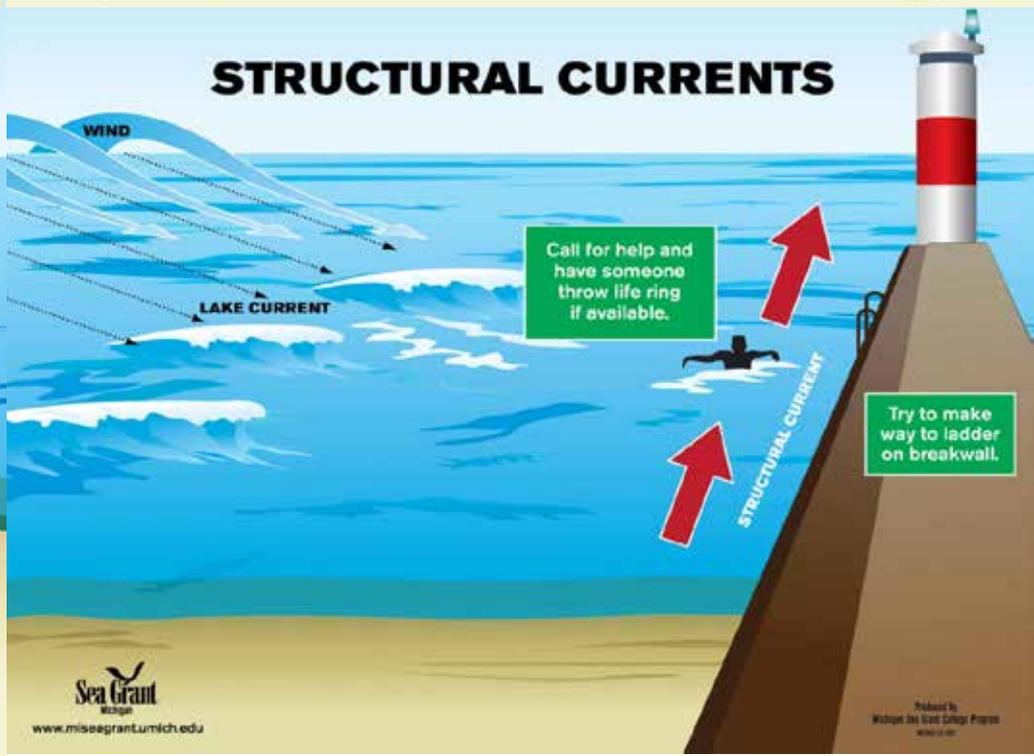
OUTLET CURRENTS



dangerouscurrents.org

Produced by Michigan Sea Grant College Program | MICH13-001

STRUCTURAL CURRENTS



www.mseagrant.umich.edu

Produced by Michigan Sea Grant College Program
MICH13-001

DROWNING? THEN FLIP, FLOAT, AND FOLLOW!



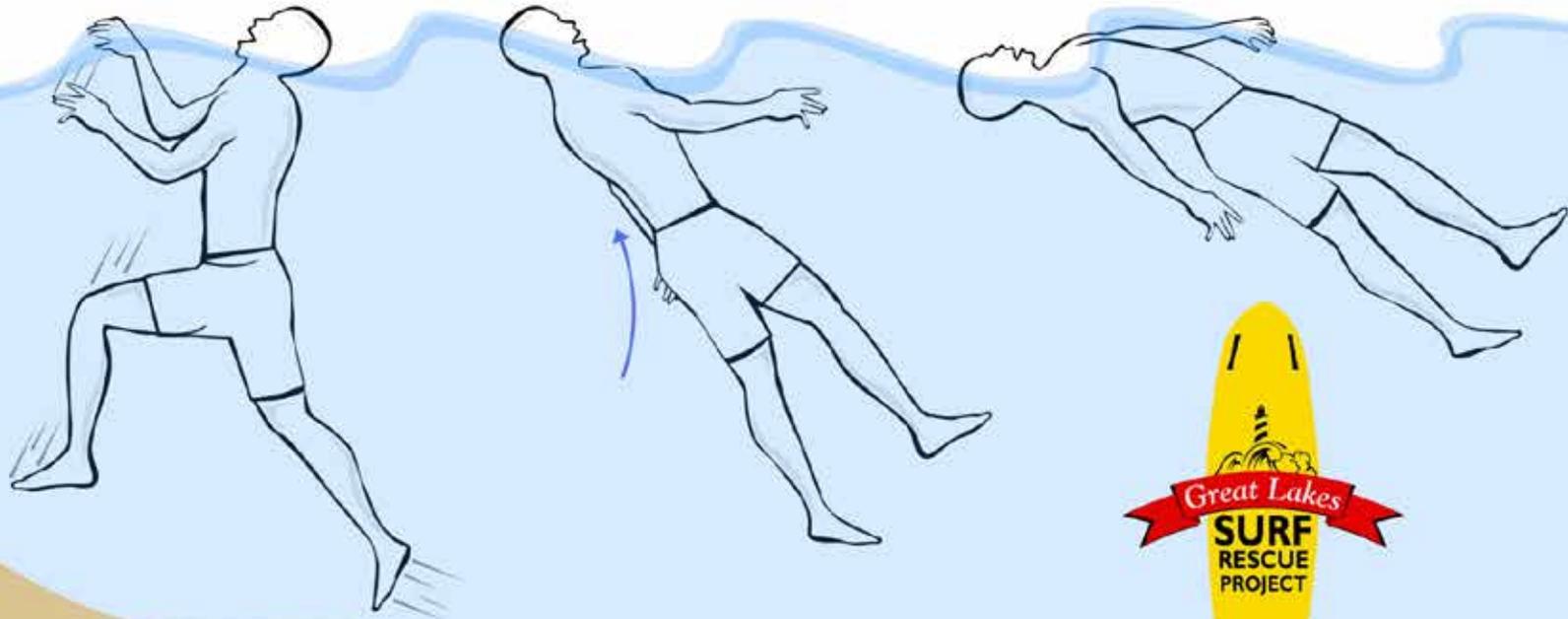
Flip over onto your back and float.

Float to:

- Keep head above water.
- Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
- Conserve your energy.

Follow the safest course to safety:

- 1 Do not fight the current.
- 2 Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
- 3 Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.



SAND BAR



GLSRP.ORG

WHAT DOES DROWNING LOOK LIKE?

THE SIGNS OF DROWNING

- 1 FACING SHORE
- 2 MOUTH AT WATER LEVEL
- 3 HEAD TILTED BACK
- 4 BODY VERTICAL
- 5 CLIMBING LADDER MOTION



GLSRP.ORG

SAFER THREE



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- CLASSES
- NEWS ROOM
- STATISTICS
- MEMBERSHIPS
- SUPPORT GLSRP
- GALLERY



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The Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium (GLWSC) is the umbrella group for all water safety organizations and advocates committed to ending drowning in the Great Lakes, through collaboration, education, and action.

The mission of the GLWSC is to connect all groups and individuals interested in water safety to maximize our collective knowledge, resources, and actions to **END DROWNING IN THE GREAT LAKES.**

An official 501c3 nonprofit, the GLWSC is a "community of BEST practice," bringing together more than 200 first responders, community leaders, park rangers, scientists, meteorologists, survivors, loved ones, and other water safety advocates, including:



THANK YOU!!



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

Bob Pratt
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