

# LAKE TAHOE EMERGENCY SERVICES

## (From The Complete Guide To Boating Lake Tahoe)

At the present time there are eight government agencies which share responsibility for law enforcement and emergency response on Lake Tahoe. All have patrol boats and each has a certain jurisdiction for which it is responsible. The Tahoe-Topaz Compact, however, gives all of these agencies the authority to pursue and apprehend lawbreakers anywhere on Lake Tahoe.

Since the waters of Lake Tahoe are owned and controlled by the Federal Government there is a contingent of the U.S. Coast Guard here, located on the north shore at Lake Forest, about one mile east of Tahoe City. The Coast Guard Station provides continuous monitoring of VHF Marine Radio Channel 16 (156.8 MHz) 24 hours a day. Their operational focus is search and rescue, and recreational boating safety. In partnership with the five local counties, their efforts are focused on education about and compliance with boating safety laws.

### Reporting an Emergency

Use of a VHF marine radio is at most times the surest and quickest way of calling for help from a boat on Lake Tahoe. Most of the following agencies monitor VHF Channel 16. Channel 16 is a hailing and distress frequency only, and should not be used for conversation or radio checks. After contacting someone on that channel move non-distress radio traffic immediately to an authorized working frequency, such as Channel 68. In reporting an emergency over VHF Channel 16, you should first contact the appropriate authorities using their VHF radio "handle" and then calmly and clearly state the following information:

- **Your name**
- **What emergency has occurred**
- **How many people are on board**
- **Where you are on the lake**
- **Description of your vessel, including registration number**

Cellular phones, although a good item to have with you while boating, should be used to report an emergency only if you don't have a VHF radio or are unable to contact anyone on VHF Channel 16. Dialing 911 from a cellular phone in the Tahoe Basin will, in most cases, connect you with an emergency operator somewhere outside the Basin and valuable time may be lost connecting you or relaying your predicament to the local authorities. The U.S. Coast Guard station at Tahoe City does have a land line number, listed below, and will accept collect calls in the event of a marine emergency. Boaters who plan on carrying a cellular phone with them should make a list of the emergency dispatch telephone numbers listed below for each agency and keep it on their boat. In the event you are onshore, spot a boater in distress out on the lake, and are using a land based phone line to report the emergency, dial 911.

### Medivac Locations

The following locations have been designated by the Coast Guard as the best sites to bring someone by boat who requires immediate medical attention. Alerting the Coast Guard by VHF radio or cell phone following an onboard medical emergency as to which location you will be proceeding will assure that EMS personnel will meet you there as quickly as possible. Alerting the destination marina of your pending arrival will help assure a convenient docking spot and assistance in tying up.

<b>South Shore</b>	<b>West Shore</b>	<b>North Shore</b>	<b>East Shore</b>
Camp Richardson Marina (530) 542-6570	Homewood Marina (530) 525-5966	Coast Guard Station (530) 583-4433 (collect calls accepted for emergencies)	Zephyr Cove Marina (775) 589-4908
Tahoe Keys Marina (530) 541-2155	Obexer's Marina (530) 525-7962	North Tahoe Marina (530) 546-8248	Sand Harbor State Park (Boat ramp dock)
Lakeside Marina (530) 541-9800	Sunnyside Marina (530) 583-7201		

Although the above sites provide the best access to the dock area for EMS personnel, other marinas or boat ramps will do in an emergency situation if you are not certain of your location on the lake.

## Reporting an Accident

As the operator of a vessel you are **required by law** to file a written report of an accident with local authorities.

### A. When To Report

- There is damage to the vessel or its equipment in excess of \$500
- There is injury or loss of life
- There is the disappearance of any person on board under circumstances indicating death or injury

### B. What To Report

- Grounding
- Capsizing
- Falls Overboard
- Collision
- Sinking
- Struck by Boat/Prop
- Swamping
- Flooding
- Fire
- Explosion
- Disappearance  
(Other Than Theft)

### C. Time Limits

- Within **48 hours** if there is loss of life, injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid, or the disappearance of a person from a vessel
- Within **10 days** if there is only damage to the vessel and/or property

### D. How To Report

- The **Coast Guard Boating Accident Report Form** may be used in all cases of accident reporting regardless in which state the report is to be filed. The state form may also be used. A copy of the Boating Accident Report Form, as well as assistance in filling it out, is available from any of the local law enforcement agencies listed below.

### E. Who Must Report

- The Boating Accident Report Form is usually filled out by the operator of the boat unless the operator is physically unable to complete it. In that case, then the owner, if he was not the operator, must submit the form.

## Lake Tahoe Law Enforcement Agencies

### U.S. Coast Guard, Lake Tahoe Station

(530) 583-4433 (collect calls accepted for emergencies)  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16, 22 (24 hours a day)  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Coast Guard Station Tahoe  
Jurisdiction: Entire lake

### South Lake Tahoe Police Dept.

Emergency Dispatch: (530) 542-6110  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16, 22 (9 AM - 6 PM, daily from mid-May through mid-Sept.)  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Marine 1  
Jurisdiction: South end of lake -Stateline to Emerald Bay

### Douglas County Sheriff

Emergency Dispatch: (775) 782-9911  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16, 22 (10 AM - 6 PM, Wednesday through Sunday, Memorial Day to July 31st)  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Marine 7  
Jurisdiction: Southeast corner of lake, Stateline north to Glenbrook

**El Dorado County Sheriff**

Emergency Dispatch: (530) 544-3464  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16, 22  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Marine 3  
Jurisdiction: South end of lake

**Placer County Sheriff**

Emergency Dispatch: (530) 583-4244  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Placer Marine 6  
Jurisdiction: Northwest corner of lake, Stateline Point south to Tahoma

**Washoe County Sheriff**

Emergency Dispatch: (775) 832-4111  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Marine 9  
Jurisdiction: Northeast corner of lake, Stateline Point south to Glenbrook

**California Department of Fish and Game**

Information and Dispatch: (916) 445-0045  
To report any poaching or polluting incident: 1-888-334-2258 (CAL TIP)  
Fish and Game Warden: Dave Bezzone (775) 267-2972  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 16  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: California Dept. of Fish and Game  
Jurisdiction: California side of lake

**Nevada Department of Wildlife**

Field Office: (775) 588-6922  
To report any poaching or polluting incident: 1-800-992-3030 (Operation Game Thief)  
VHF Radio Channels Monitored: 21, 22 (Memorial Day through Labor Day)  
VHF Marine Radio Handle: Marine 5  
Jurisdiction: Nevada side of lake

**Boat Towing on Lake Tahoe**

Few law enforcement agencies provide towing of boats disabled due to mechanical problems or running out of fuel. To obtain help for a disabled boat in a situation when neither life nor property is threatened contact one of the facilities listed below.

**• South end of lake:**

Vessel Assist VHF Channel 16 or (530) 544-4522  
High Sierra Marine VHF Channel 16 or (530) 581-2628  
Tahoe Keys Marina (530) 541-2155

**• North end of lake:**

Vessel Assist VHF Channel 16 or (775) 832-0139  
High Sierra Marine VHF Channel 16 or (530) 581-2628  
North Tahoe Marina VHF Channel 16 or (530) 546-8248  
Sierra Boat Company VHF Channel 16 or (530) 546-2551