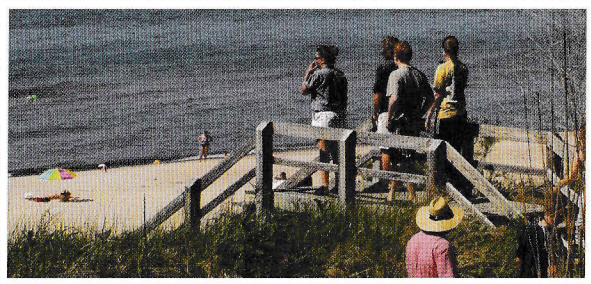


Each year, millions of people visit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; most to enjoy the beach. The residential and industrial development of the Lake Michigan shoreline makes it difficult for many people to realize that this is a wild and unforgiving resource. Nature has full control of the conditions. Make sure that the memories of your visit are good ones by following the guidelines to safety.



Have a safe visit!



To report emergencies, criminal activities or suspicious activities call:
1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)

Contact Information

Phone: 219-926-7561 or 1-800-959-9174

Address: Indiana Dunes National Park Service
1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd.
Porter, IN 46304

Email: indu_communications@nps.gov

Website: www.nps.gov/indu

Lake & Beach **Safety**



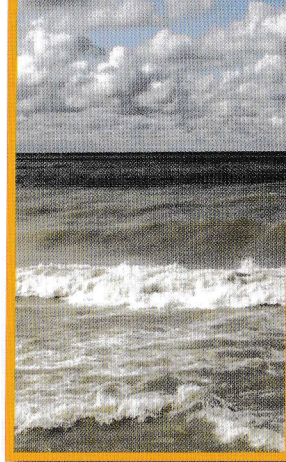
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Guidelines to Safety



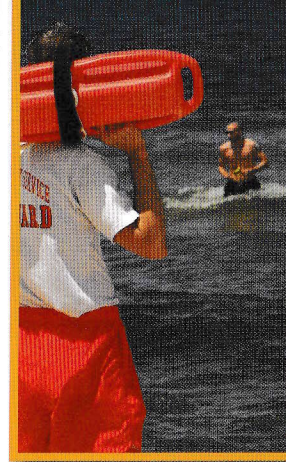
- ✓ Never swim alone. Swim buddies can call for help when you cannot.
- ✓ Keep your children in sight at all times. Whether walking on the beach or swimming in the lake, children can disappear very quickly.
- ✓ Watch your feet. The lake bottom and beach are not groomed or cleaned.
- ✓ Numerous drop-offs and holes as well as natural and man-made debris can be anywhere.
- ✓ Be weather ready. Wear sunscreen and a hat. Bring a sweater when it is cool.
- ✓ Be aware of the water quality. Natural and man-made sources of contamination can affect water quality. If the water looks dirty, it probably is.



Water

The lake can change from calm and inviting to rough and deadly within minutes. Strong winds create steep and irregular waves that can overwhelm even expert swimmers. If water is largely covered with whitecaps and waves are crashing on the shore, it is too dangerous for swimming or wading. People have died. **WHITE WAVES KILL.**

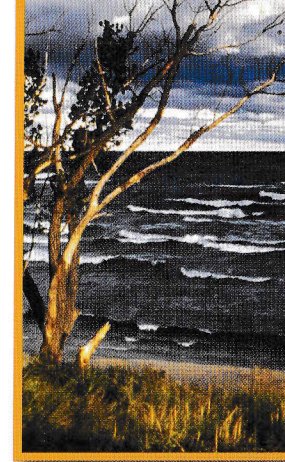
If you hear lifeguards, radio or television making announcements that warn of dangerous water conditions, heed these warnings and stay out of the lake. The shoreline is the same throughout the park. Conditions are similar all along the beach front. If it is too dangerous to swim somewhere, it is too dangerous to swim anywhere.



Sandbars

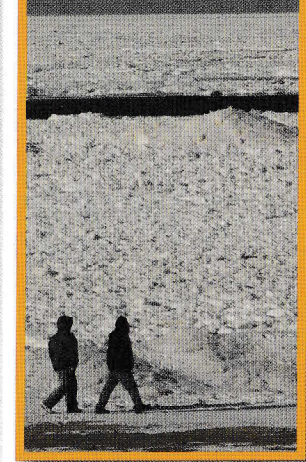
Sandbars run parallel to the shoreline. While fun to play on, they are also dangerous. Sandbars change on a daily basis. The edges are loose and lead into much deeper water. A sandbar a foot or two below the surface can have fifteen foot deep water on either side.

Sandbars lure poor or non-swimmers farther into the lake than intended. An unexpected wave from a passing boat, a sudden increase in waves from a passing storm or just a misstep can cause trouble for anyone. Poor swimmers should not venture out on these sandbars.



Storms

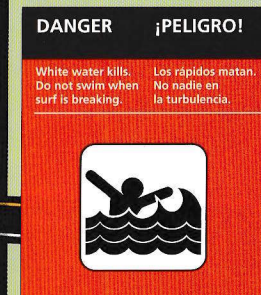
The weather along the lake can change very quickly. Thunderstorms can develop with little warning. These storms can stir the waters and make swimming extremely dangerous. Lightning can strike up to 20 miles from the actual storm. If you can hear the thunder of an approaching storm, get out of the water and off the beach.



Shelf Ice

When frozen, Lake Michigan resembles an arctic landscape. Unlike the Arctic, the lake ice is full of hidden thin spots and gaps. The ice forms scenic landscapes that people like to view. Please admire this spectacular formation from afar. It is never safe to walk upon. Stay off the ice!

Watch for posted signs like these.



Be sure to read and understand them. Remember, danger exists even when signs are not posted. Always think safety!