

RIP CURRENT SAFETY

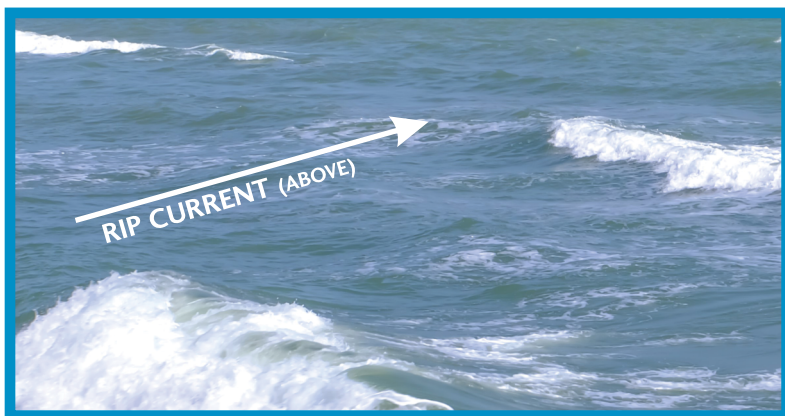
SWIM SMART
ALWAYS SWIM WITH A BUDDY!

WHAT IS A RIP CURRENT ?

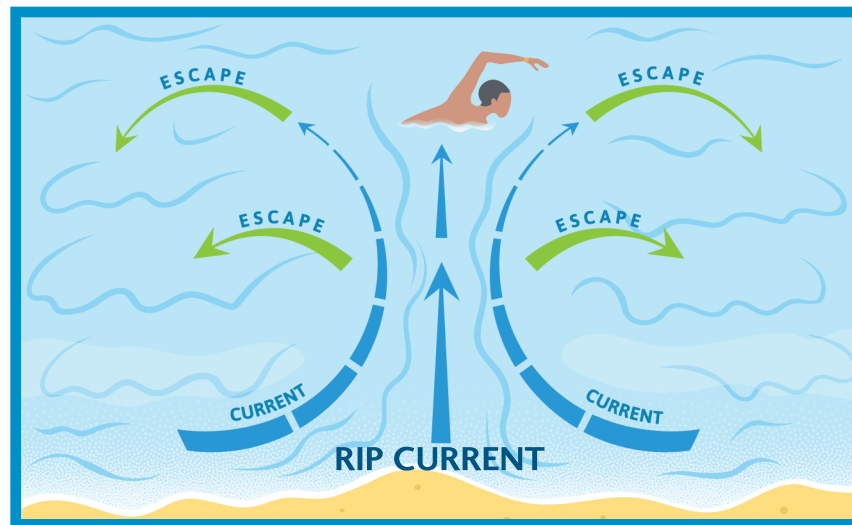
A rip current is a narrow, powerful current of water moving directly away from the shore, out into the lake.

Rip currents occur in a low spot of a sandbar or near a structure such as a pier or jetty.

Rip currents can occur along any coastline where there are breaking waves.



**RIP CURRENTS ARE MOST LIKELY
TO BE DANGEROUS DURING
HIGH WAVE CONDITIONS**



TO ESCAPE A RIP CURRENT SWIM PARALLEL TO THE SHORE

Do **NOT** panic.

Do **NOT** fight against the current.

Swim **SIDEWAYS**, parallel to the beach. This will get you out of the narrow current, so you can swim back in with the waves. If it is too hard to swim, try to float on your back or tread water until the current carries you past the sandbar. The water may be calmer there, making it easier to get out of the rip current.

DON'T TRY TO BE A HERO!

If you see someone in trouble **call 9-1-1**.

Throw the rip current victim something that floats and yell instructions on how to escape.

Remember, people have drowned while trying to save someone else from a rip current.

RIP CURRENT MYTH

Rip currents do not pull people under the water - they pull people away from the shore.

Drowning deaths occur when people are pulled offshore and are unable to keep themselves afloat and swim to shore. This may be due to fear, panic, exhaustion, or swimming ability.

**DO NOT SWIM
WITHIN 50M (164FT)
OF A PIER OR JETTY**



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