

July 28, 2011

**OPG, OPP Have A Simple Water Safety Message: Stay Clear, Stay Safe
*Higher numbers of drowning recorded in 2011. One is one too many.***

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have a simple water safety message for this long weekend - Stay Clear, Stay Safe.

“Our message applies to taking care near our facilities, but the safety principle needs to be applied anytime you go near water,” said John Murphy, OPG’s Executive Vice President Hydro.

The hot weather has drawn people to the water. Sadly that’s resulted in an increase in drownings. “One death is one too many. A few precautions can prevent these tragic losses of life,” Murphy said.

Across Canada, there were 126 water-related drownings from May 1 to July 10. That number jumped to 174 by July 27, according to preliminary data collected by the Lifesaving Society. That’s 48 deaths in just 17 days. In Ontario there has been an increase in deaths this month with 22 people drowning since July 10.

The waters near hydroelectric stations and dams can be dangerous as flows and levels change in response to demand for electricity. Fencing, booms, buoys, and signs all warn people of areas to stay clear of.

OPG lands are private property and people can face charges if they trespass. Earlier this summer OPP officers were called to one OPG location because a group of fishermen were putting themselves at risk and interfering with the operation of the facility.

Visit www.opg.com/watersafety to view the OPG’s public service announcements, and learn more about water safety.

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