



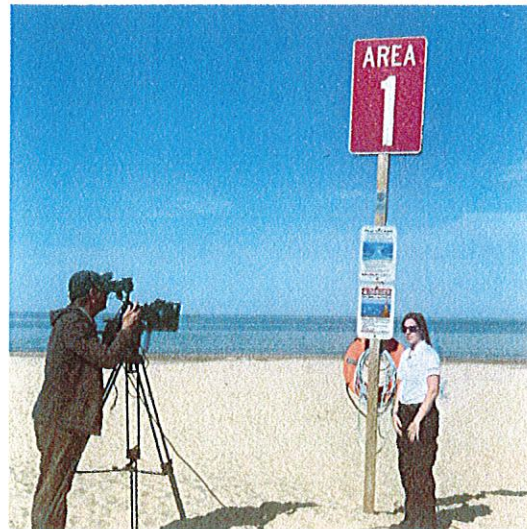
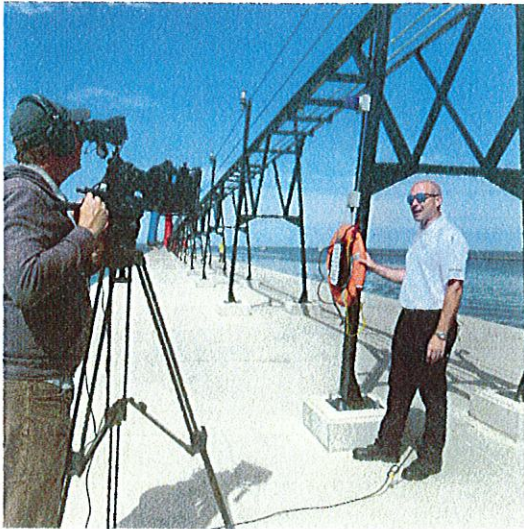
A Record We Don't Want to Beat - Respect the Red Flag

Along with the global epidemic, 2020 also gave way to another serious situation with a more localized impact; a new record for Lake Michigan drownings. More than 50 people lost their lives to the pull of this powerful lake last year.

“Lake Michigan is one of our most beautiful assets, but it also carries the potential for deadly danger,” says Shelleye Yaklin, CEO of NOCHS. “My heart breaks every time our EMS crew gets called to a potential drowning. It’s so agonizing...and so preventable.”

One of the reasons people lose their lives to the big lake is the irresistible lure of the waves. “It’s fun to play in rough water,” says NOCHS EMS manager Tom Stanley. “On a hot day when the waves are crashing on the beach, it’s a huge temptation to ignore that red flag and jump in. It looks like fun. It looks harmless.”

But those flags are there for a reason. The red flag is the most serious of all beach warnings. [Read more here.](#)



This summer you will see some videos on our [Facebook](#) page from our paramedics about how to stay safe on red flag days. ▶

These videos were made to remind all of us how dangerous Lake Michigan can be and to stay out of the water when the red flag is flying. We will also be posting water safety tips every Wednesday morning on our social media accounts as part of #watersafetywednesday.