

**"TRUE PUBLIC  
SAFETY REQUIRES  
A COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
THE COMMUNITY."**

## **STAYING INFORMED IS EASY**

DOWNLOAD THE BALDWIN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE APP AND THE  
BALDWIN COUNTY EMA APP  
ON YOUR CELLULAR DEVICE AND  
STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION IN THE AREA.

## **IN HONOR OF DEPUTY WILLIAM "BILL" SMITH**



EOW - JUNE 6, 2021

Deputy Smith made the ultimate sacrifice on June 6th, 2021 when he entered into the Gulf of Mexico to rescue a swimmer in distress off the coast of Fort Morgan. Although Deputy Smith did not survive, his rescue attempts were successful. A life was saved due to Deputy Smith's heroic actions. The Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Baldwin County are forever grateful for Deputy Smith's bravery and heroism.

**"GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS;  
TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR ONE'S FRIENDS."**



## **BALDWIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

A family guide to

## **OPEN-WATER SAFETY**

Put together by The Coastal Enforcement Unit

(251) 937-0202

**[sheriff.baldwincountyal.gov](http://sheriff.baldwincountyal.gov)**



**STOP!**

Don't Panic! If you are caught in a rip current or unable to reach the shore, try to relax and remember the current will not take you under water. Studies have shown that, often, rip currents will eventually bring you back to shore, so just float and save your energy.

**WOW!**

*Did you know a rip current can move someone the length of a football field in just 1 minute?!*

**"THE BEST OUTCOME IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IS ONE YOU PLANNED FOR."**

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## 7 STEPS TO RIP CURRENT SAFETY FOR FAMILIES

- Know how to swim and know your limits.
- Children should wear a lifejacket or flotation device, **EVEN** if they know how to swim.
- **NEVER** swim alone.
- Never, **EVER**, swim at night.
- Stay at least 100 feet away from any piers or jetties.
- Obey all instructions/ rules from lifeguards and posted signs.
- Pay attention to flags notifying the public of water conditions and when in doubt, don't go out!

## BEACH FLAGS



**RED** - High Hazard  
Rough water conditions such as strong surf and rip currents



**YELLOW** - Med. Hazard  
Light surf and or currents



**PURPLE** - Marine Life  
Hazardous marine life such as jelly fish, stringrays, and dangerous fish.

### SAND BARS ARE A GREAT PLACE FOR KIDS, BUT ARE YOU AWARE OF THE DANGER SURROUNDING THEM?

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Rip currents most typically form at low spots or breaks in sandbars. So, although sand bars can be a fun and safe place for kids to play in shallow water, always accompany children to and from these areas. Remember, drownings can occur in as little as an inch or two of water, so no matter how safe it may seem, monitor children at all times in the water.