ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Boating Accident Report - 1972

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The following information is contained in Boating Accident Reports submitted to this Department on 94 reportable accidents which occurred during the year 1972, involving 129 boats. There were 37 fatalities resulting from drowning and two deaths from injuries. Injuries to 43 persons also resulted. Property damage amounted to $107,544.00. Fifty-five accidents involved one boat and 37 accidents involved two boats.

| Type, Nature or Classification of Accident | |
|---|---|
| Collision with vessel | 32 |
| Capsizing | 18 |
| Collision with fixed object | 15 |
| Falls overboard | 10 |
| Sinking | 3 |
| Fire or explosion | 3 |
| Boat swamped | 2 |
| Collision with floating object | 2 |
| Collision with submerged object | 2 |
| Grounding | 1 |
| Hit bank | 1 |
| Struck tow line | 1 |
| Struck fence | 1 |
| Over the dam | 1 |
| Unknown | 2 |
| | 94 |

| Cause of Accident or Drowning | |
|---|---|
| Carelessness | 11 |
| Wake from boats | 6 |
| Mechanical failure | 6 |
| Swift current | 5 |
| Inattention | 5 |
| Collision with fixed object | 4 |
| Confusion | 4 |
| Inexperience | 4 |
| No lights | 3 |
| Standing in boat | 3 |
| Speeding | 2 |
| Turning | 2 |
| Shifting weight | 2 |
| Watching skier | 2 |
| Sharp turn | 2 |
| Lost control of boat | 2 |
| Capsizing | 2 |

## Cause of Accident or Drowning (cont.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Inadequate marking | 1 | |
| Over the dam | 1 | |
| Wave action | 1 | |
| Hit submerged log | 1 | |
| No safety rail | 1 | (10 year old) |
| Overloading | 1 | |
| Changing positions | 1 | |
| Flood conditions | 1 | |
| Mechanical failure | 1 | |
| Wake from boats | 1 | |
| Fishing, boat upset | 1 | |
| Failure to yield | 1 | |
| Anchor pulled boat under | 1 | |
| Unmarked dam | 1 | |
| Flooding | 1 | |
| Fire | 1 | |
| Grounding | 1 | |
| Leaky fuel line | 1 | |
| Unbalanced boat | 1 | |
| Unknown | 10 | |
| | 94 | |

## Age and Hours of Experience of Boat Operators Involved in Accidents

| AGE | Less than 20 hours | 20 to 100 Hours | 100 to 500 Hours | Over 500 Hours | Experience Unknown | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Teenage | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| 20-29 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 23 |
| 30-39 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 27 |
| 40-49 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 2 | 25 |
| 50-59 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| 60-over | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Unknown | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 22 |
| | | | | | | 129 |

Accidents occurred in the following months and bodies of water in the State of Illinois:

| | |
|---|---|
| February | -1 |
| March | -1 |
| April | -12 |
| May | -19 |
| June | -15 |
| July | -20 |
| August | -14 |
| September | -9 |
| Octuber | -1 |
| November | -2 |
| | 94 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Rivers | -41 |
| Small Lakes | -17 |
| Chain O'Lakes | -12 |
| Lake Michigan | -11 |
| Carlyle Lake | - 2 |
| Crab Orchard Lake | - 2 |
| Lake Shelbyville | - 1 |
| Brandon Road Lock and Dam | - 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Ferson Creek | -1 |
| Shipping Canal | -1 |
| Big Slough | -1 |
| Powder Horn | -1 |
| Bath Chute | -1 |
| Blanding Slough | -1 |
| Willow Springs | -1 |
| small bay | -1 |

## Type of Boat

| | |
|---|---|
| Open motorboat | 72 |
| Cabin motorboat | 18 |
| Rowboat | 5 |
| Auxiliary | 5 |
| Canoe | 4 |
| Pontoon | 3 |
| Sailboat | 3 |
| Jonboat | 2 |
| Tugboat | 2 |
| Airboat | 1 |
| Tram | 1 |
| Cruiser | 1 |
| Raft | 1 |
| Barge | 1 |
| Unknown | 10 |
| | 129 |

## Horsepower of Motor

| | |
|---|---|
| Under five | 16 |
| 6 to 10 | 7 |
| 11 to 15 | 1 |
| 16 to 20 | 3 |
| 21 to 25 | 5 |
| 26 to 30 | 3 |
| 31 to 40 | 7 |
| Over 40 | 73 |
| Unknown | 14 |
| | 129 |

## Length of Hull

| | |
|---|---|
| Under 12 | 3 |
| 12 to 13 | 11 |
| 14 to 15 | 30 |
| 16 to 17 | 20 |
| 18 to 19 | 16 |
| 20 and over | 40 |
| Unknown | 9 |
| | 129 |

## Lifesaving Devices

| | |
|---|---|
| None on board | 9 |
| On board; used | 26 |
| On board; not used | 55 |
| On board; not known if used | 9 |
| Unknown or not applicable | 30 |
| | 129 |

## Counties in which accidents occurred

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cook | 19 | Clinton | 2 |
| Lake | 13 | McLean | 1 |
| Tazewell | 5 | St. Clair | 1 |
| Jo Daviess | 4 | Henderson | 1 |
| Peoria | 4 | Fulton | 1 |
| Ogle | 3 | Franklin | 1 |
| McHenry | 3 | Madison | 1 |
| Kane | 2 | Effingham | 1 |
| Kankakee | 2 | Carroll | 1 |
| Winnebago | 2 | Randolph | 1 |
| Rock Island | 2 | Edgar | 1 |
| Williamson | 2 | Mason | 1 |
| Sangamon | 2 | Johnson | 1 |
| Adams | 2 | Grundy | 1 |
| Will | 2 | Pike | 1 |
| Macon | 2 | Shelby | 1 |
| Mercer | 2 | Whiteside | 1 |
| LaSalle | 2 | Marshall | 1 |
| Cass | 2 | | 94 |

## Weather Conditions

| | |
|---|---|
| Clear and Calm | 43 |
| Clear and Choppy | 18 |
| Cloudy and Calm | 8 |
| Clear and Rough | 6 |
| Clear, Strong current | 5 |
| Cloudy and choppy | 5 |
| Cloudy and rough | 3 |
| Cloudy, very rough | 2 |
| Hazy and rough | 1 |
| Hazy and choppy | 1 |
| Foggy and choppy | 1 |
| Dark and rough | 1 |
| | 94 |

# DROWNINGS

Thirty-two accidents resulted in the drowning of 37 persons. Also, two persons died from injuries sustained in boating accidents in 1972.

## Month in which drowning occurred

| | |
|---|---|
| March | 1 |
| April | 13 |
| May | 7 |
| June | 6 |
| July | 3 |
| August | 1 |
| September | 3 |
| November | 3 |
| | 37 |

## Lifesaving Devices

| | |
|---|---|
| No life preservers | 11 |
| Preservers not used | 16 |
| Preservers used | 4 |
| Unknown | 6 |
| | 37 |

## Type and Cause of Accident resulting in drowning

| | |
|---|---|
| Went over dam, capsized | 3 |
| Capsizing, falls overboard | 3 |
| Collision with fixed object, falls overboard | 2 |
| Shifting weight, boat capsized | 2 |
| Flooding causing to capsize | 2 |
| Capsized | 2 |
| Inexperience, falls overboard | 2 |
| Changing position, falls overboard | 2 |
| Standing in boat, falls overboard | 2 |
| Overloaded, shifted weight, capsized | 1 |
| Grounding, collision with fixed object | 1 |
| Mechanical failure, capsizing, falls overboard | 1 |
| Rough water, falls overboard | 1 |
| Crossed behind barge, boat swamped | 1 |
| Inner tube was swung into bank | 1 |
| No lights, collision with vessel | 1 |
| Drinking, shifting weight, boat capsized | 1 |
| Collision with log jam, capsized | 1 |
| Stumbled, falls overboard | 1 |
| Starting motor, falls overboard | 1 |
| Boat out of control hit skier in water | 1 |
| | 32 |