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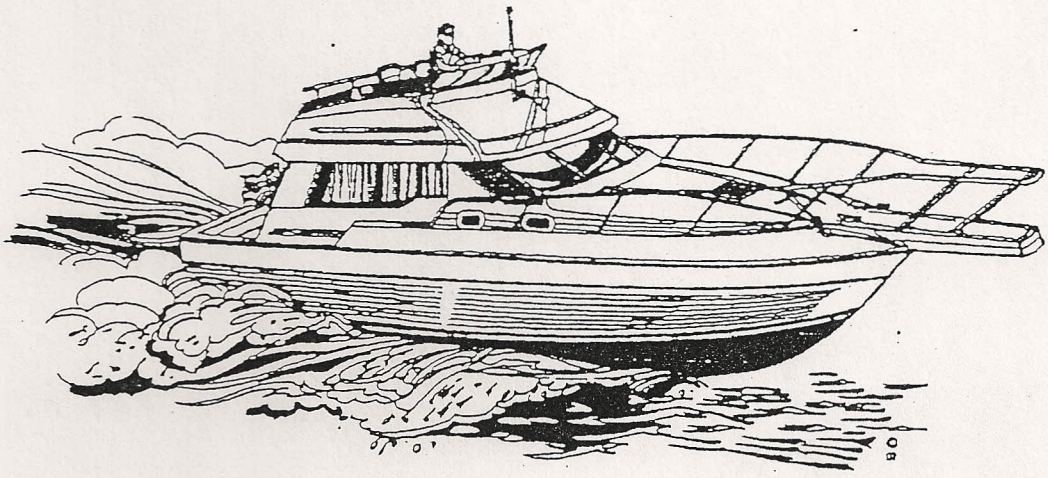
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

January 1, 1996 - December 31, 1996



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Illinois Recreational Boating Accident Report - 1996

INTRODUCTION:

For 1996 the number of reported boating accidents remained approximately constant as compared to 1995, however, the number of fatalities more than doubled. Twenty-seven people died in Illinois boating accidents in 1996 while twelve died in 1995. These deaths were from a variety of causes, but again, most of them would have survived if they had only been wearing a PFD. We are hopeful that the advent of approved inflatable PFDs will lead to a trend of more people wearing PFDs. While many people who drown in boating accidents had no PFD available to them, it has been demonstrated that, even in cases where PFDs were in the boat at the time of the accident, the chances of getting one to someone struggling in the water are relatively slim. Getting boaters to wear a PFD is the single most important issue that a boating safety instructor can stress when teaching.

Second to wearing PFDs, the next most important issue would appear to be the safe and courteous operation of PWCs. There are approximately 15,000 PWCs registered in Illinois which means that they make up less than 4% of the more than 370,000 registered boats in this state. The number of reported accidents that involve PWCs, however, accounts for 30% of the total. This is down somewhat from last year, but still represents an unacceptable figure. Several factors appear to be major contributors to PWC accidents. Operator inattention is one critical factor. PWCs are very maneuverable and operators often change direction without warning to other boaters and without first looking, which results in many collisions. The fact that PWCs cannot be steered when the throttle is released also appears to be a significant cause of accidents. Inexperienced operators who are operating at wide-open throttle often react to seeing something in their path by releasing the throttle and then trying to steer around the obstruction which may be another PWC, boat, or swimmer. Because PWCs require motor thrust to steer, however, the forward momentum of the craft may cause it to run directly into the object they are trying to avoid.

PWCs continue to be the primary subject of citizen complaints. Most of the complaints appear to boil down to discourteous and unsafe operation. "Buzzing" pleasure boaters, jumping wakes immediately behind other boats, and harassing water skiers are among the most common of complaints. Illinois is looking at the

possibility of developing a safety course directed specifically to PWC operators in order to make them aware of the effect that they have on other boaters.

We are very pleased to be able to provide you with this vastly improved boating accident report for 1996. In cooperation with the United States Coast Guard, all of the states now have the capability of using software that was developed under a grant in association with NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) to enter their data, transmit reports electronically to Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and retrieve data in just about any way desired. The benefit to the reader of this report is that information is provided in more detail, which allows for a more meaningful determination of the causes of accidents ,as well as, other factors that can be considered when teaching safety classes and scheduling patrols. We hope that you will find this year's report informative and useful.

Tom Wakolbinger, Deputy Chief
Office of Law Enforcement

1996
Illinois Boating Accident Report

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Boat Accidents by County

County	# Accidents	# Injuries	# Fatalities	# Accidents with Injuries	# Accidents Involving PWC	# PWC Involved	Total Vessels
Adams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alexander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Bureau	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Calhoun	3	1	1	1	0	0	4
Carroll	3	3	0	3	0	0	4
Cass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Champaign	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christian	2	1	0	1	0	0	3
Clark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clinton	6	6	0	5	3	5	10
Coles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cook	17	5	2	3	1	1	25
Crawford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeKalb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dewitt	6	2	1	2	1	1	6
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DuPage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edgar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Effingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fayette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	2	2	0	2	1	1	2
Fulton	2	0	1	0	1	1	3
Gallatin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greene	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grundy	7	8	1	6	3	5	10
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henderson	1	2	0	1	0	0	2
Henry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iroquois	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	5	2	2	2	1	1	7
Jasper	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Jefferson	1	2	0	1	0	0	1
Jersey	3	4	0	3	1	1	3
JoDaviess	4	1	0	1	1	2	6
Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kane	1	0	0	0	1	1	2

Boat Accidents by County

County	# Accidents	# Injuries	# Fatalities	# Accidents with Injuries	# Accidents Involving PWC	# PWC Involved	Total Vessels
Kane	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
Kankakee	5	4	0	3	3	4	8
Kendall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LaSalle	8	4	1	2	4	5	10
Lake	19	10	3	7	6	9	30
Lawrence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macoupin	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Madison	3	1	3	1	0	0	3
Marion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Mason	1	0	0	0	1	2	2
Massac	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDonough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McHenry	6	1	0	1	3	3	9
McLean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Monroe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moultrie	3	2	0	2	3	6	6
Ogle	2	0	3	0	0	0	2
Peoria	3	4	0	2	0	0	5
Perry	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Piatt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulaski	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Randolph	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Richland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Island	5	5	0	2	0	0	5
Saline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sangamon	3	1	0	1	3	4	4
Schuyler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelby	8	7	1	7	3	4	10
St. Clair	1	0	0	0	1	2	2
Stark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephenson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Boat Accidents by County

County	# Accidents	# Injuries	# Fatalities	# Accidents with Injuries	# Accidents Involving PWC	# PWC Involved	Total Vessels
Tazewell	4	2	0	2	1	2	6
Union	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Vermilion	3	4	0	3	2	2	3
Wabash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whiteside	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
Will	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Williamson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winnebago	4	0	2	0	0	0	4
Woodford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	155	90	27	70	46	65	214

Accident Statistics by County and Waterway

County/Waterway	Accidents	Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Brown				
Illinois River	1	1	0	1
	1	**1**	**0**	**1**
Bureau				
Illinois River	1	1	0	1
	1	**1**	**0**	**1**
Calhoun				
Illinois River	2	3	0	1
Mississippi River	1	1	1	0
	3	**4**	**1**	**1**
Carroll				
Lake Carroll	1	2	0	1
Mississippi River	2	2	0	2
	3	**4**	**0**	**3**
Christian				
Lake Taylorville	2	3	0	1
	2	**3**	**0**	**1**
Clinton				
Carlyle Lake	6	10	0	6
	6	**10**	**0**	**6**
Cook				
Calumet River	1	2	2	0
Chicago River	5	8	0	1
Lake Michigan	10	14	1	4
Little Calumet River	1	2	0	0
	17	**26**	**3**	**5**
Dewitt				
Clinton Lake	6	6	1	2
	6	**6**	**1**	**2**

County/Waterway	Accidents	Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Dewitt				
	6	**6**	**1**	**2**
Franklin				
Rend Lake	2	2	0	2
	6	**6**	**1**	**2**
Fulton				
Canton Lake	2	3	1	0
	2	**3**	**1**	**0**
Grundy				
Heidecke Lake	1	1	1	1
Illinois River	3	4	0	4
Kankakee River	1	2	0	2
Lincoln Lake	2	3	0	1
	7	**10**	**1**	**8**
Henderson				
Mississippi River	1	2	0	2
	1	**2**	**0**	**2**
Jackson				
Cedar Lake	1	1	0	0
Kinkaid Lake	4	6	2	1
	5	**7**	**2**	**1**
Jasper				
Newton Lake	1	1	0	1
	1	**1**	**0**	**1**
Jefferson				
Casey Fork Creek	1	1	0	2
	1	**1**	**0**	**2**
Jersey				
Illinois River	2	2	0	2
Mississippi River	1	1	0	2
	3	**3**	**0**	**4**

County/Waterway	Accidents	Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
JoDaviess				
Mississippi River	4	6	0	1
	4	**6**	**0**	**1**
Kane				
Fox River	1	2	0	0
	1	**2**	**0**	**0**
Kankakee				
Kankakee River	4	6	0	3
Shannon Shores	1	2	0	1
	5	**8**	**0**	**4**
LaSalle				
Illinois River	4	6	0	4
LaSalle Lake	2	2	0	0
Vermilion River	2	2	1	0
	8	**10**	**1**	**4**
Lake				
Bangs Lake	3	5	0	2
Bluff Lake	1	1	0	0
Fox Lake	2	2	0	0
Grass Lake	4	7	0	4
Lake Michigan	5	7	0	2
Lake Villa	1	2	0	0
Nippersink	3	6	6	2
	19	**30**	**6**	**10**
Macoupin				
Stauton Lake	1	1	1	0
	1	**1**	**1**	**0**
Madison				
Farm Pond	1	1	1	0
Mississippi River	2	2	2	1
	3	**3**	**3**	**1**
Marshall				
Lake Wildwood	1	1	0	1
	1	**1**	**0**	**1**

County/Waterway	Accidents	Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Mason				
Matanza Lake	1	2	0	0
	1	**2**	**0**	**0**
McHenry				
Fox River	5	7	0	0
Wonder Lake	1	1	0	1
	6	**8**	**0**	**1**
Mercer				
Mississippi River	1	2	2	0
	1	**2**	**2**	**0**
Moultrie				
Lake Shelbyville	3	6	0	2
	3	**6**	**0**	**2**
Ogle				
Rock River	2	2	3	0
	2	**2**	**3**	**0**
Peoria				
Illinois River	3	5	0	4
	3	**5**	**0**	**4**
Perry				
DuQuoin City Lake	1	1	1	1
	1	**1**	**1**	**1**
Pike				
Pittsfield City Lake	1	1	1	0
	1	**1**	**1**	**0**
Pulaski				
Ohio River	1	1	1	0
	1	**1**	**1**	**0**
Randolph				
Kaskaskia River	1	1	0	0

County/Waterway	Accidents	Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Randolph				
	1	**1**	**0**	**0**
Rock Island				
Mississippi River	5	5	0	5
	5	**5**	**0**	**5**
Sangamon				
Lake Springfield	2	3	0	1
Lick Creek	1	1	0	0
	3	**4**	**0**	**1**
Shelby				
Lake Shelbyville	8	10	2	7
	8	**10**	**2**	**7**
St. Clair				
Kaskaskia	1	2	0	0
	1	**2**	**0**	**0**
Tazewell				
Illinois River	3	5	0	2
Pekin Lake	1	1	0	0
	4	**6**	**0**	**2**
Union				
Private Farm pond	1	1	1	0
	1	**1**	**1**	**0**
Vermilion				
Canyon Lake	1	1	0	1
Lake Florence	1	1	0	1
Lake Vermilion	1	1	0	2
	3	**3**	**0**	**4**
Whiteside				
Rock River	1	2	0	0
	1	**2**	**0**	**0**

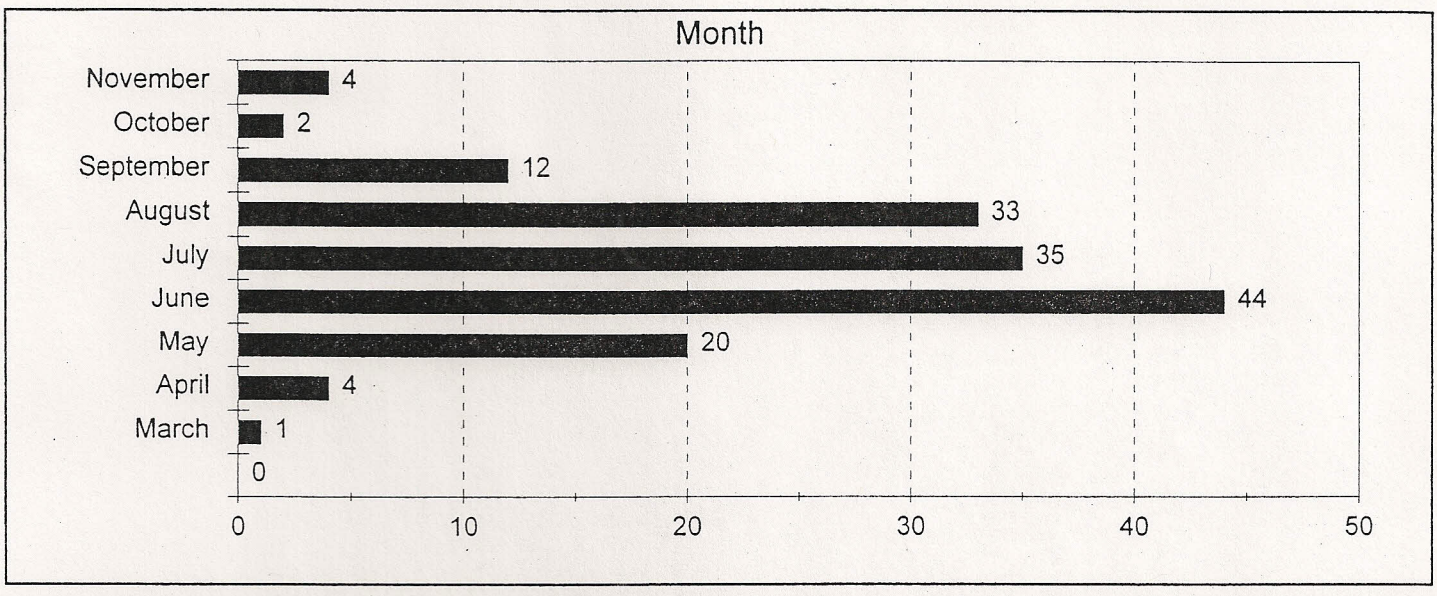
County/Waterway	Accidents	Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Will				
Des Plaines River	1	1	0	0
Kankakee River	1	2	0	1
	2	**3**	**0**	**1**
Winnebago				
Kishwaukee River	1	1	1	0
Rock River	3	3	1	0
	4	**4**	**2**	**0**

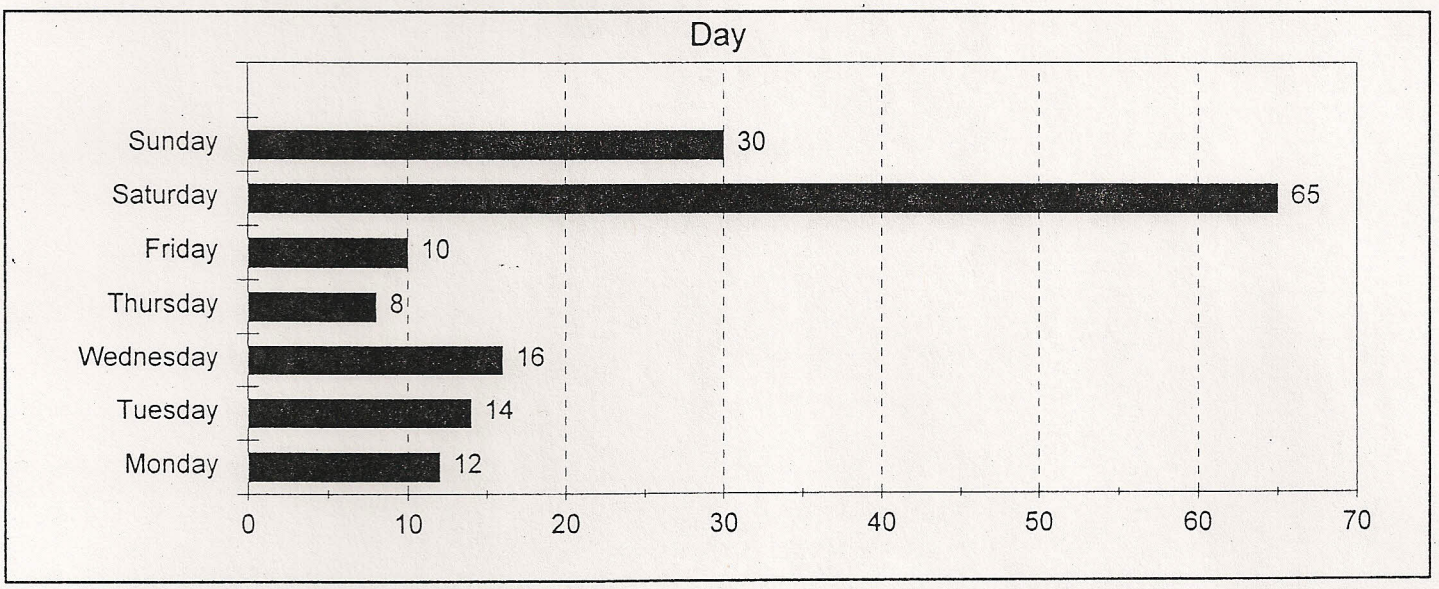
Operation of Vessel at Time of Accident, by Type of Accident

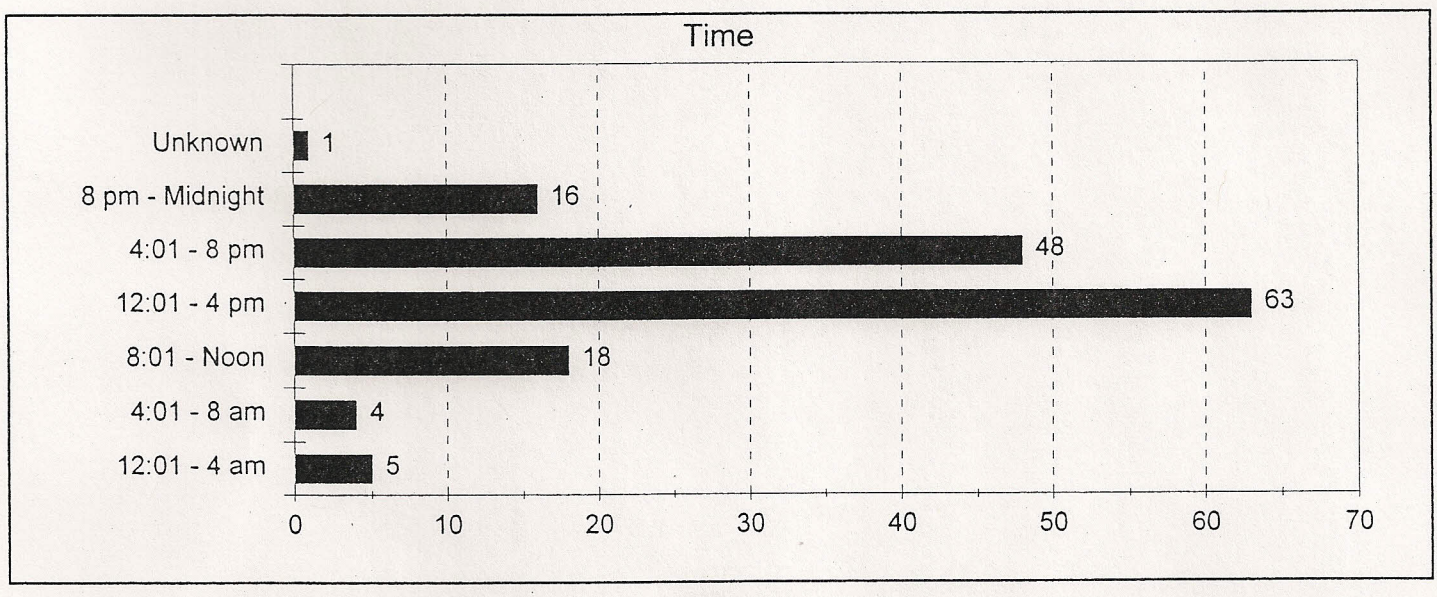
	# of Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Capsizing	**15**	**7**	**11**
At anchor	2	1	2
Changing Speed	1	3	0
Cruising	7	0	8
Drifting	1	1	0
Other	1	0	0
Rowing/Paddling	2	2	0
Unknown	1	0	1
Collision with Fixed Object	**18**	**1**	**14**
At anchor	1	0	0
Changing Direction	1	0	0
Cruising	14	1	14
Sailing	2	0	0
Collision with Floating Object	**4**	**1**	**1**
Cruising	3	1	0
Unknown	1	0	1
Collision with Vessel	**91**	**6**	**30**
At anchor	2	0	0
Changing Direction	9	0	6
Changing Speed	1	0	0
Cruising	48	5	22
Docking/Undocking	4	0	0
Drifting	3	1	0
Other	8	0	2
Tied to Dock/Mooring	2	0	0
Unknown	14	0	0
Fall in Boat	**11**	**0**	**13**
Cruising	8	0	9
Other (see below)	3	0	4
Falls Overboard	**15**	**8**	**8**
Changing Direction	1	0	1
Cruising	10	6	5
Drifting	3	2	1
Other	1	0	1
Fire/Explosion (Fuel)	**4**	**0**	**1**
Cruising	2	0	0
Other	1	0	0
Tied to Dock/Mooring	1	0	1

	# of Vessels	Fatalities	Injuries
Fire/Explosion (Other than Fuel)	**1**	**0**	**0**
Cruising	1	0	0
Flooding/Swamping	**2**	**0**	**0**
At anchor	1	0	0
Cruising	1	0	0
Grounding	**1**	**0**	**0**
Unknown	1	0	0
Other (see below)	**2**	**0**	**1**
Drifting	2	0	1
Sinking	**6**	**3**	**1**
At anchor	1	0	0
Cruising	4	1	1
Unknown	1	2	0
Skier Mishap	**5**	**0**	**5**
Cruising	4	0	4
Drifting	1	0	1
Struck Submerged Object	**6**	**0**	**0**
Cruising	6	0	0
Struck by Boat	**2**	**0**	**2**
Cruising	2	0	2
Struck by Motor/Propeller	**2**	**1**	**1**
Changing Direction	1	1	0
Other (see below)	1	0	1
Unknown	**2**	**0**	**1**
Changing Direction	1	0	1
Cruising	1	0	0

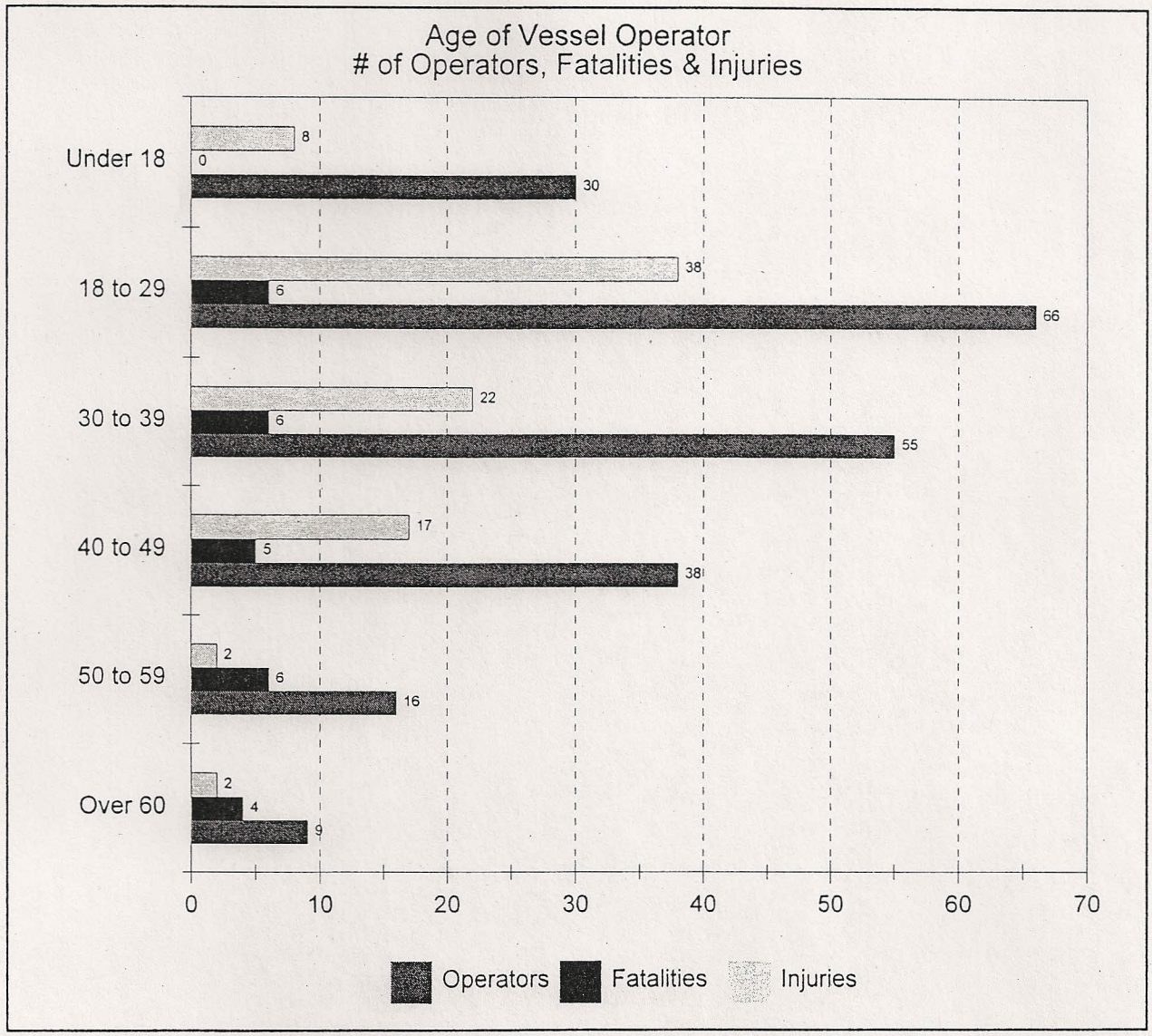
Month, Day of the Week, Time of Day

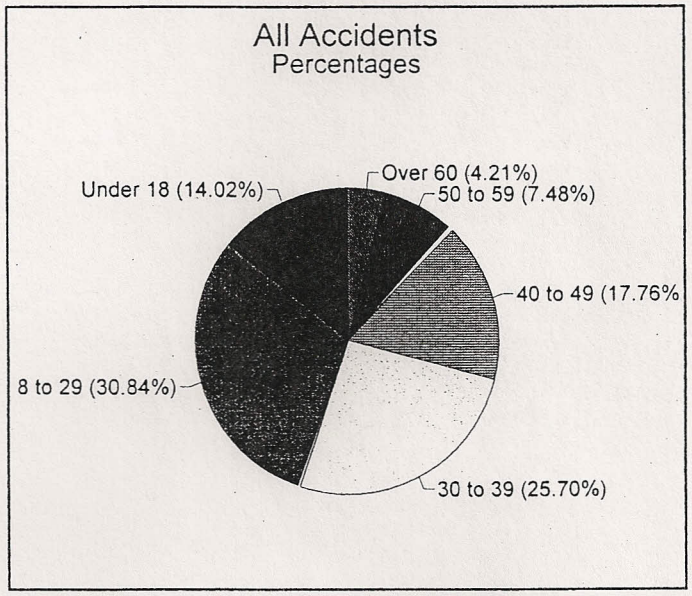






Age of Vessel Operator



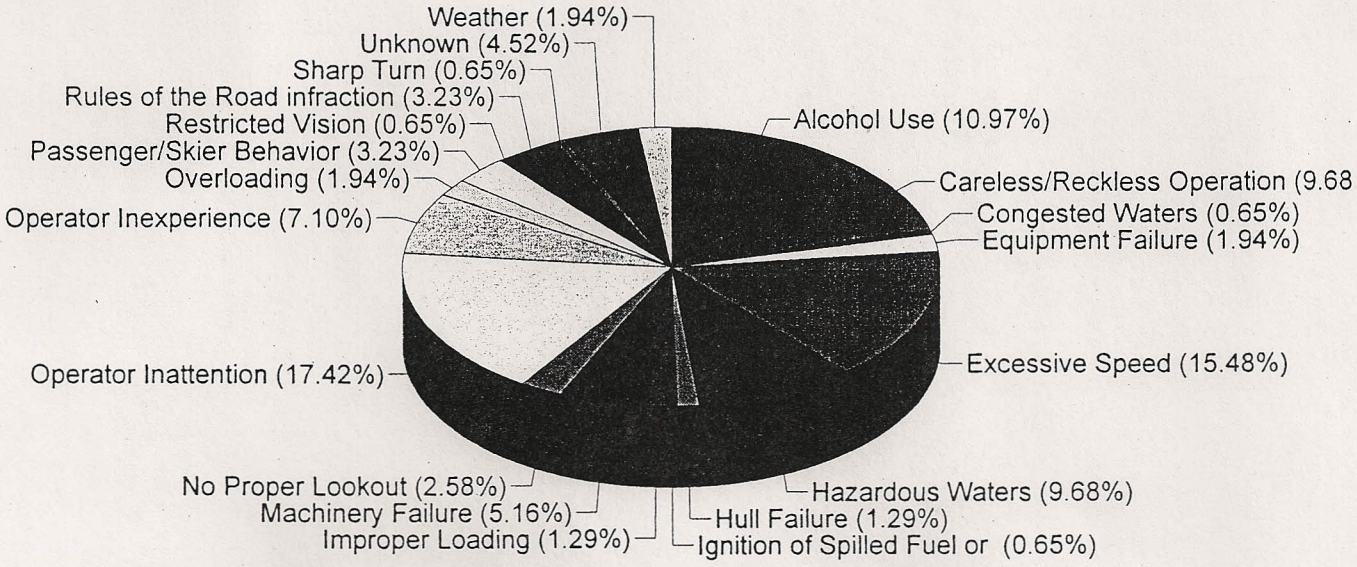


Operator Education

Operator Education	Accidents
American Red Cross	1
Informal	3
None	123
State Course	15
U.S. Power Squadron	5
USCG Auxiliary	18
Unknown	49

Primary Accident Causes by Percentage

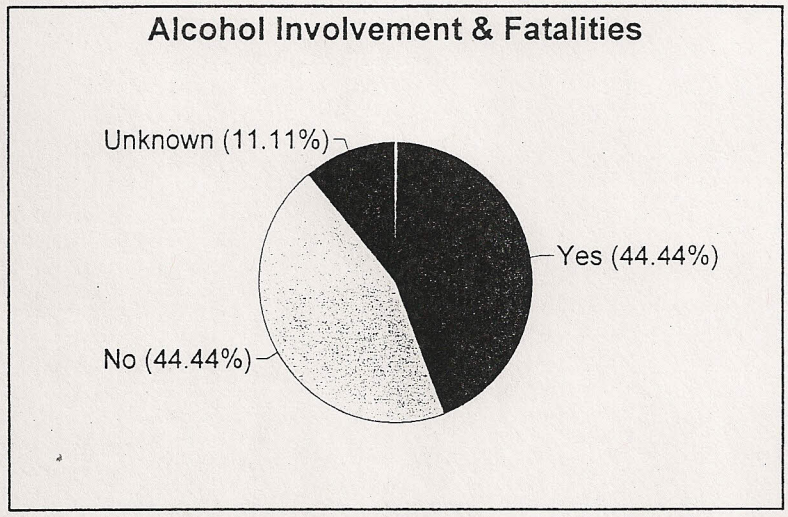
Accident Cause	# of Accidents
Alcohol Use	17
Careless/Reckless Operation	15
Congested Waters	1
Equipment Failure	3
Excessive Speed	24
Hazardous Waters	15
Hull Failure	2
Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapor	1
Improper Loading	2
Machinery Failure	8
No Proper Lookout	4
Operator Inattention	27
Operator Inexperience	11
Overloading	3
Passenger/Skier Behavior	5
Restricted Vision	1
Rules of the Road infraction	5
Sharp Turn	1
Unknown	7
Weather	3

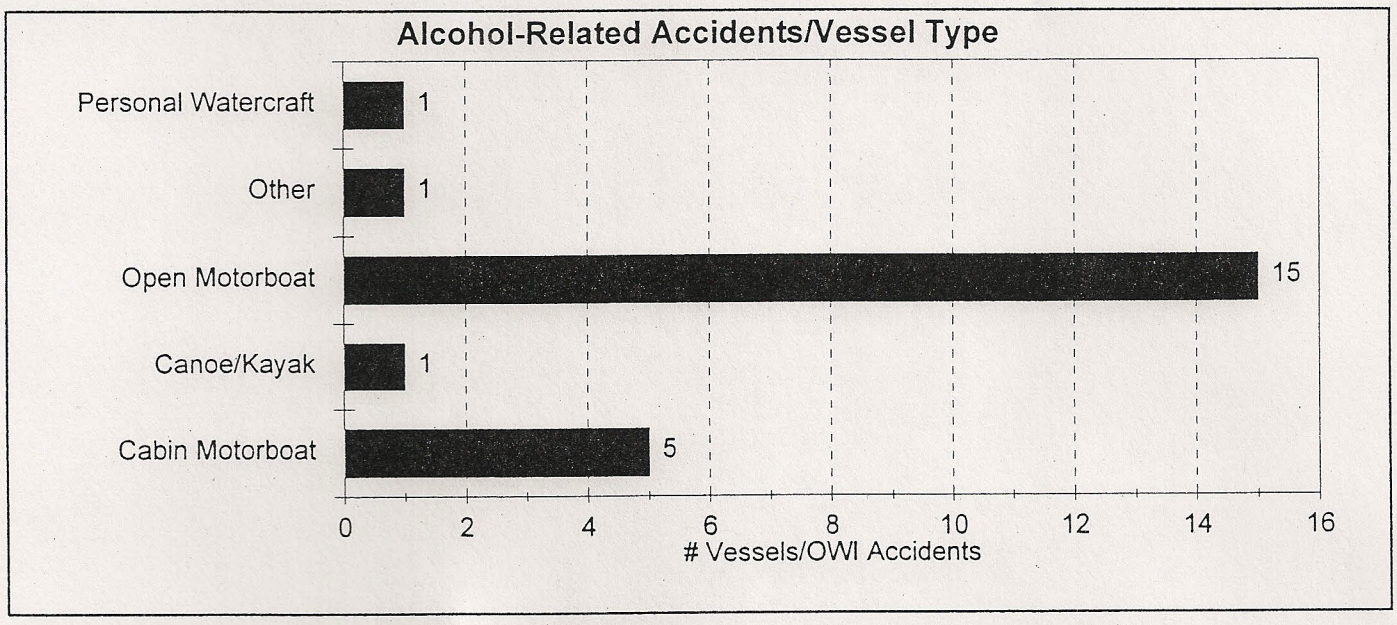


Alcohol and Boating

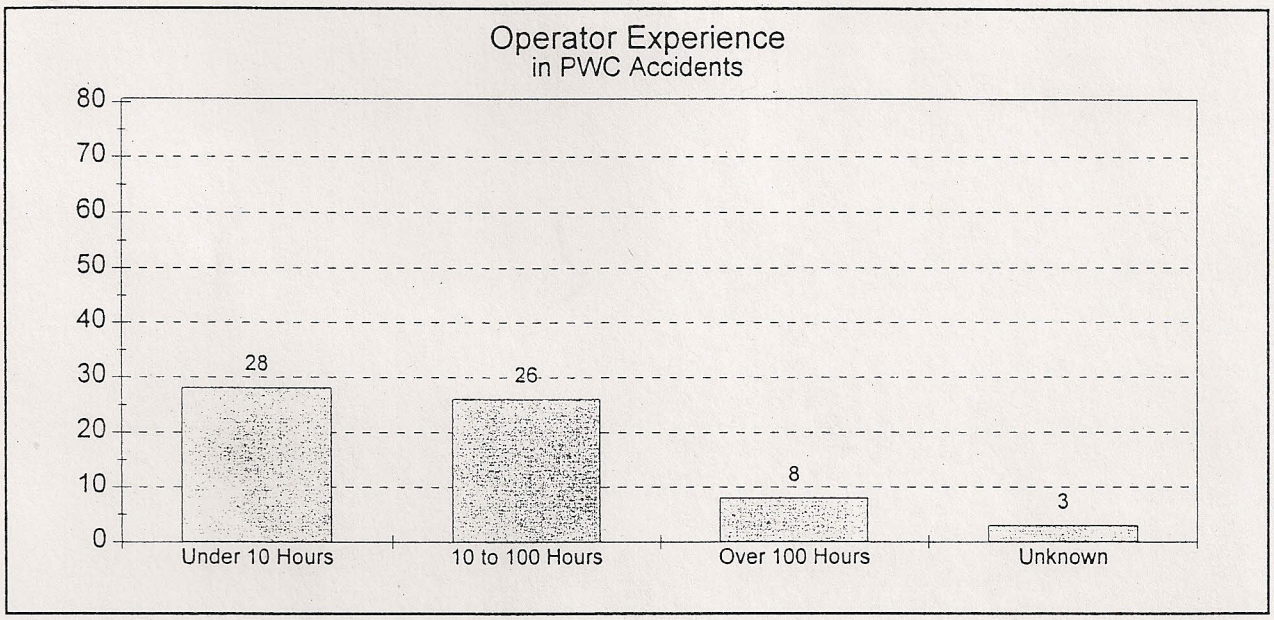
Alcohol Involved	# Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries
Yes	17	12	11
No	58	12	41
Unknown	80	3	37

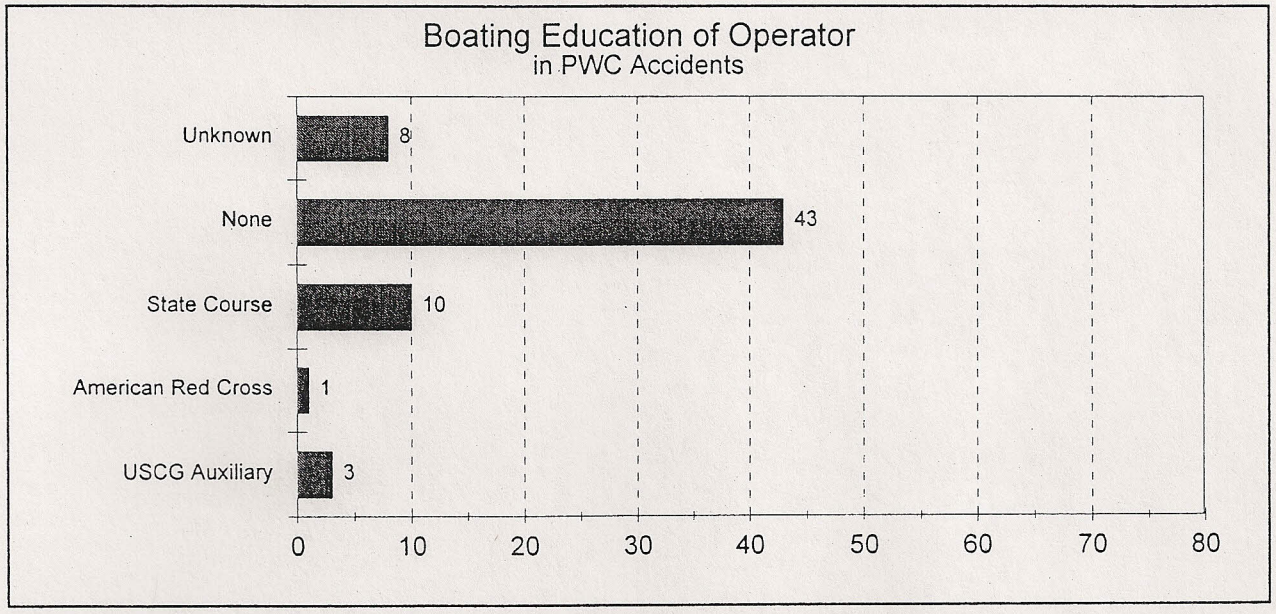
Alcohol Involved	County
1	Calhoun
1	Carroll
1	Cook
1	Grundy
1	Jersey
3	LaSalle
3	Lake
1	Mercer
1	Ogle
1	Pulaski
2	Rock Island
1	Winnebago

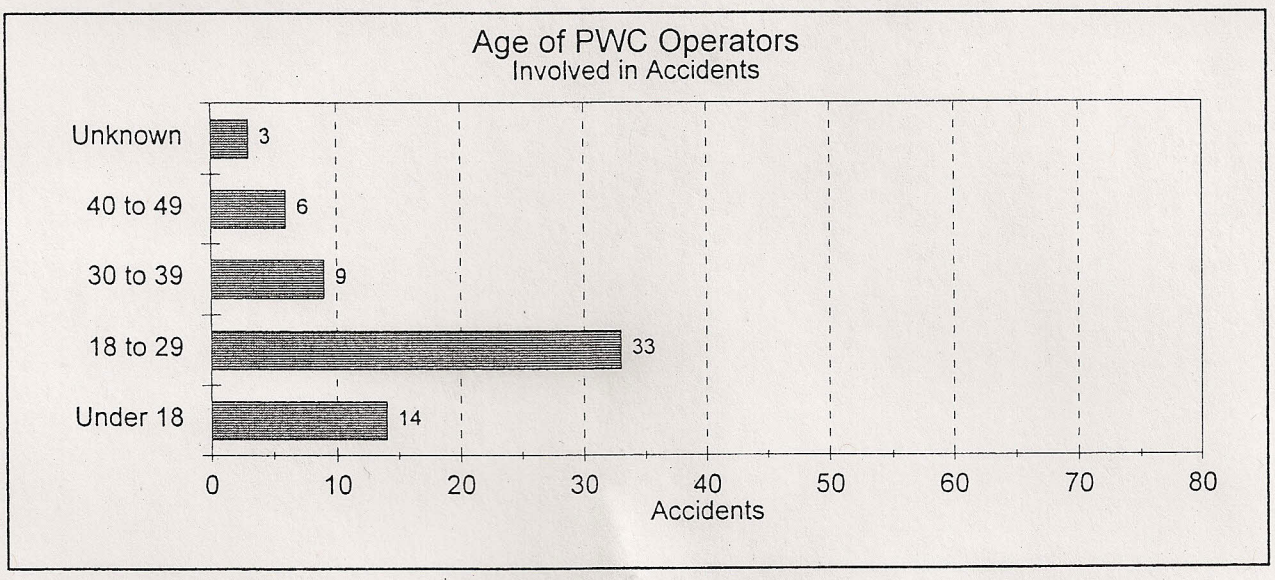




Personal Watercraft Accidents







Personal Watercraft Accidents

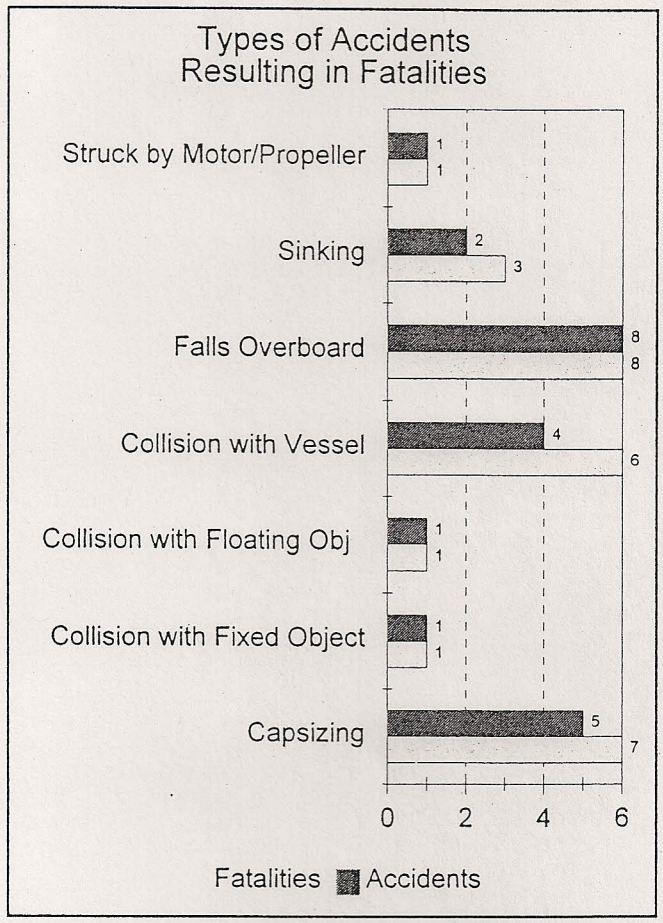
Accident Type	Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries
Collision with Fixed Object	2	0	2
Collision with Floating Object	1	0	0
Collision with Vessel	32	1	14
Fall in Boat	2	0	2
Falls Overboard	5	0	5
Other	1	0	0
Skier Mishap	1	0	1
Struck by Boat	1	0	1
Unknown	1	0	1

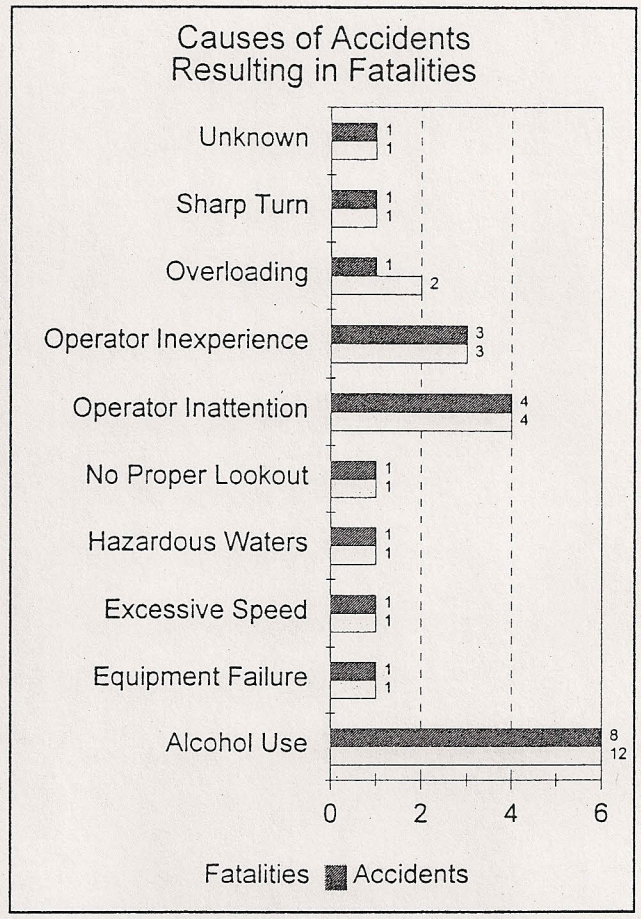
Cause of Accident	Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries
Alcohol Use	1	0	0
Careless/Reckless Operation	7	0	4
Excessive Speed	12	0	6
Hazardous Waters	1	0	0
Machinery Failure	1	0	0
Operator Inattention	14	0	10
Operator Inexperience	6	1	5
Rules of the Road infraction	2	0	1
Unknown	2	0	0

NOTE: There is often more than one cause to an accident. This table lists only what was considered to be the *Primary Cause of Accident* as determined by the investigator.

Fatal Accidents

Was the Victim Wearing a PFD?	No	Yes
Drowning	21	3
Trauma	2	1





Operation & Boat Type in Fatal Accidents	Cabin Motorboat	Canoe/Kayak	Open Motorboat	Other	Personal Watercraft
At anchor			1		
Changing Direction	1				
Changing Speed			3		
Cruising		1	12		1
Drifting			3	1	
Rowing/Paddling		2			
Unknown			2		

Summaries of Fatal Accidents

Accident # : 9617001 **Date :** 3/24/96 **Time :** 11:15 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Madison **Waterbody :** Mississippi River **Alcohol Involved :**No

Accident Type: Sinking **Cause of Accident :**Hazardous Waters

Operator and passenger (victim) were travelling upstream in rough choppy water. Operator throttled back to slow down to avoid splashing. As the boat slowed, the bow dropped and water came over bow. The boat continued to take on water, capsized and sank. The operator pulled the passenger onto the top of boat but the boat sank under her weight. The passenger was wearing a PFD and the operator gave her his PFD also. The operator used a 5 gal. gas tank and a child-size PFD for himself. They waited approximately 45 min to 1 hr for help to arrive. The operator saw a barge approaching and decided to swim for help. When he left the passenger, she was still alive. The barge picked him up and then they went back to pick up the passenger. They found her dead and floating in the water.

Accident # : 9617003 **Date :** 4/16/96 **Time :** 3:46 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Madison **Waterbody :** Farm Pond **Alcohol Involved :**No

Accident Type: Capsizing **Cause of Accident :**Operator Inattention

Bobber from fishing line became entangled in tree. Operator stood up and at the same time the passenger (victim) shifted his weight and the boat capsized. Both tried to swim to shore. Victim yelled that he didn't think he could make it and then went under. Operator swam to shore and went for help. The passenger drowned before help could arrive.

Accident # : 9617006 **Date :** 5/4/96 **Time :** 7:40 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Grundy **Waterbody :** Heidecke Lake **Alcohol Involved :**Yes

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :**Alcohol Use

Operator and 9-year old stepson were cruising at high rate of speed. Operator turned the boat sharply to avoid buoys and fell out of the boat. Nine year old threw his stepfather a life jacket but could not reach him. The boy jumped into the water with a seat cushion but could not locate his father. He swam back to the boat and stayed with with it until help arrived. The BAC of the victim was later determined to be .197.

Accident # : 9617007 **Date :** 5/10/96 **Time :** 11:20 AM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Winnebago **Waterbody :** Kishwaukee River **Alcohol Involved :**No

Accident Type: Capsizing **Cause of Accident :**Operator Inexperience

School canoe trip took off in flood conditions. Canoe struck a log and capsized. The 10-year old victim was wearing a PFD, but got caught under a log. It was not realized that the victim was missing until other children had been retrieved from the water and canoes reconvened on a nearby island. They immediately realized the victim was missing and went back to the location where the canoe capsized. The victim was found drowned under the log.

Summaries of Fatal Accidents

Accident # : 9617021 **Date :** 5/29/96 **Time :** 3:06 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Union **Waterbody :** Private Farm pond **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Capsizing **Cause of Accident :** Equipment Failure

Witness saw victim fishing from boat. Ten minutes later he saw the boat on its side with pedestal seat broken. The operator (victim) was found by the rescue squad in 8 ft. of water. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

Accident # : 9617028 **Date :** 6/15/96 **Time :** 3:00 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : LaSalle **Waterbody :** Vermilion River **Alcohol Involved :** Yes

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :** Alcohol Use

Two subjects in raft, both drinking alcoholic beverages. Raft carried by water current over low head dam. Deceased was wearing a PFD that came off as he was forced under water. Deceased was reported to be "passed out" before raft went over dam. Autopsy revealed BAC .09.

Accident # : 9617040 **Date :** 6/26/96 **Time :** 11:30 AM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Pulaski **Waterbody :** Ohio River **Alcohol Involved :** Yes

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :** Alcohol Use

Operator had just let a passenger off to go get the boat trailer. He backed the boat away from the ramp and began moving in a circular direction. Female passenger was sitting in the middle of the boat facing forward. She turned around and noticed that operator was gone. She ran to the back of the boat and saw operator in the water with blood running down his forehead. She was inexperienced with boat motors and it took her a long time to figure out how to turn it off. In the meantime, the victim tried on one occasion to grab on to the boat but went under it. Female pasenger stated that victim appeared dazed and did not appear to be trying to help himself in the water. Passenger who had been let off at boat dock jumped into water and swam to victim. They went under the water a couple of times but eventually got him to the boat. They put the boat on a trailer and drove to a nearby residence to call 911. No CPR was attempted until the ambulence arrived. Subject was not wearing a PFD. Coroner's report revealed a BAC of .27

Accident # : 9617046 **Date :** 7/11/96 **Time :** 6:30 AM **# Dead:** 2 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Jackson **Waterbody :** Kinkaid Lake **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Sinking **Cause of Accident :** Overloading

A fisherman found a body floating in the lake. Once the body was identified, it was determined that there could be a second victim. Through sonar, found boat sunk and a day later found second victim. Circumstances surrounding the two deaths are unknown. However, it did appear that the boat was probably overloaded. Neither victim was wearing a PFD.

Summaries of Fatal Accidents

Accident # : 9617050 **Date :** 7/1/96 **Time :** 1:10 AM **# Dead:** 3 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Ogle **Waterbody :** Rock River **Alcohol Involved :** Yes

Accident Type: Capsizing **Cause of Accident :** Alcohol Use

Boat laucnched from trailer with 7 occupants. Had trouble keeping motor running. Ran down battery trying to restart motor. Dragged boat to shore and replaced boat battery with car battery. Boat started and proceeded up river. Boat began to take on water. Operator accelerated trying to bring boat on plane. Instead, more water came in over transom. Operator then pushed the throttle all the way forward . Stern dropped. Bow went straight up and boat rolled throwing everyone out of the boat. Only four of seven were able to swim the 20-25 yards to shore. The other three drowned. Operator's BAC determined to be .126. Passenger's BAC = .126. Third victim's BAC = .00

Accident # : 9617060 **Date :** 7/11/96 **Time :** 2:00 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Madison **Waterbody :** Mississippi River **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Collision with Floating Objec **Cause of Accident :** Excessive Speed

Operator and passenger finished fishing and were headed toward locks travelling at approx. 50 mph. The boat struck some debris in water which caused it to "fishtail" and passenger was thrown overboard. Victim was not wearing a PFD.

Accident # : 9617069 **Date :** 7/16/96 **Time :** 5:20 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Fulton **Waterbody :** Canton Lake **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :** Sharp Turn

Water very rough. Witnesses stated that operator of the jon boat seemed to be "horsing around" with a jet ski. The motor caught on a wave from the jet ski and turned violently. The operator was thrown out of the boat and drowned. The victim was not wearing a PFD although one was available in the boat.

Accident # : 9617085 **Date :** 7/2/96 **Time :** 3:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Calhoun **Waterbody :** Mississippi River **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :** Operator Inattention

Operator had been seen launching boat. A few minutes later the boat was seen running in circles and the operator missing. No other information available.

Summaries of Fatal Accidents

Accident # : 9617093 **Date :** 7/11/96 **Time :** 10:08 PM **# Dead:** 3 **# of Vessels :** 2

County : Lake **Waterbody :** Nippersink **Alcohol Involved :** Yes

Accident Type: Collision with Vessel **Cause of Accident :** Alcohol Use

Two boats collided broadside. Occurred after Thursday Night Boat races. Operator of vessel B and two of his passengers were killed. (Operator's BAC was.179 and also had cocaine in his system. One passenger had a BAC of .145 and the third had a BAC of .115) Operator of vessel A was issued a citation for equipment violation (bow light faded). He requested a breathalyzer test and the results were .00. Coroner's inquest found that operator B's death was an accident but his passengers deaths were ruled as homicides since he was OUI. Investigation handled by another agency. Much information taken From newspaper articles.

Accident # : 9617094 **Date :** 6/12/96 **Time :** 3:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 2

County : Cook **Waterbody :** Calumet River **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Collision with Vessel **Cause of Accident :** No Proper Lookout

Operator was working on his engine as barge approached. When barge got within 25ft. and obviously going to hit the boat, operator jumped of the boat and attempted to swim to shore. Witnesses stated he appeared to be a non-swimmer as he was "dog- paddling". Not wearing a PFD. Operator drowned.

Accident # : 9617102 **Date :** 7/27/96 **Time :** 7:47 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Macoupin **Waterbody :** Stauton Lake **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :** Operator Inattention

A 12 foot jon boat was overloaded with four passengers. The operator was sitting in a lawn chair in the back of the boat operating the motor. They began experienced motor trouble. The operator stood p to work on the motor and fell overboard throwing everyone into the water. The operator drowned while trying to help his wife (passenger) back to the boat. The other two passengers were wearing life jackets.

Accident # : 9617113 **Date :** 8/17/96 **Time :** 10:00 AM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Perry **Waterbody :** DuQuoin City Lake **Alcohol Involved :** No

Accident Type: Collision with Fixed Object **Cause of Accident :** Operator Inattention

Vessel struck a submerged object and began taking on water. Operator ignored the passenger's suggestion that they go immediately to shore. Operator wanted to get the boat back to the boat ramp and truck. Boat continued to take on water and operator finally decided that he should get the boat immediately back to shore and attempted to turn the boat. Because the boat was already so full of water, the turn caused it to capsize throwing all of the occupants out. There were not enough PFDs in the boat and none were used. The operator drowned.

Summaries of Fatal Accidents

Accident # : 9617117 **Date :** 8/25/96 **Time :** 5:52 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 2

County : Mercer **Waterbody :** Mississippi River **Alcohol Involved :** Yes

Accident Type: Collision with Vessel **Cause of Accident :** Alcohol Use

Operator passed between two commercial barges trying to get ahead of them. HIs motor stalled and he was unable to restart it. The boat was hit by the barge and both operator and passenger were thrown out of the boat. The passenger drowned and was not located until the next day. Operator was requested to submit to HGN test and field breath test. BAC was .05. He was not charged with OUI. Although PFDs were available in the boat, they were not used.

Accident # : 9617118 **Date :** 8/29/96 **Time :** 1:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 2

County : Shelby **Waterbody :** Lake Shelbyville **Alcohol Involved :**

Accident Type: Collision with Vessel **Cause of Accident :** Operator Inexperience

Husband and wife each on personal watercraft and travelling on opposite sides of a cove. The wife decided to cross cove and unknown to her, her husband had also changed direction and they hit head on. Husband died from injuries. Both were on borrowed personal watercraft and had less than ten hours of experience.

Accident # : 9617130 **Date :** 11/5/96 **Time :** 5:25 AM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Dewitt **Waterbody :** Clinton Lake **Alcohol Involved :** Unknown

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :** Unknown

Duck hunter fell overboard and presumed drowned. No details known. The operator's body was finally recovered in April, 1997.

Accident # : 9617132 **Date :** 7/21/96 **Time :** 1:00 AM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Pike **Waterbody :** Pittsfield City Lake **Alcohol Involved :**

Accident Type: Capsizing **Cause of Accident :** Operator Inexperience

Canoe capsized. Passenger made it to shore but the operator did not. According to investigation, no PFDs were available or used.

Summaries of Fatal Accidents

Accident # : 9617148 **Date :** 8/24/96 **Time :** 1:00 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Cook **Waterbody :** Lake Michigan **Alcohol Involved :**Yes

Accident Type: Struck by Motor/Propeller **Cause of Accident :**Alcohol Use

Vessel A was drifting and vessel B was at anchor. All watching fireworks show. Passenger in Vessel B jumped into the water to cool off. Vessel A was drifting closer to the stern of vessel B. Operator started up his engine and put boat in gear to avoid drifting into vessel A. Apparently he was unaware that the swimmer was in the water. Swimmer was pulled under vessel A and killed. Operator of vessel A arrested for OUI however his breath BAC was .00. Asked for blood, he refused.

Accident # : 9617156 **Date :** 8/17/96 **Time :** 10:16 AM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels :** 1

County : Winnebago **Waterbody :** Rock River **Alcohol Involved :**Yes

Accident Type: Falls Overboard **Cause of Accident :**Alcohol Use

Witnesses said they observed operator standing up in the boat and operating at a high rate of speed. Then he was seen falling overboard and going under the water. Coroner determined he died of drowning and BAC was .11.