ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002

ILLINOIS CONSERVATION POLICE Since 1885 DEPT. NATURAL RESOURCES

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2002

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Illinois Boating Accident Report - 2002

Headcount losses and budget reductions affected the department's ability to provide boating enforcement services during the 2002 boating season. This program was, however, considered to be a high priority and maximum available coverage was provided. The 2002 recreational boating season in the state of Illinois was average, with generally good weather throughout the summer months. There were 275 OUI arrests made during the 2002 season (up by 34 from last year) and 81 operator privilege suspensions entered (up by 36 from last year). Emphasis on OUI enforcement remains a high priority. All Conservation Police Officers have been trained in OUI detection and arrest procedures. Conservation Police Officers issued 1,630 citations for various infractions of the Boat Registration and Safety Act during the 2002 season. This represents a dramatic increase of 634 from the 2001 season, illustrating the emphasis and priority that was placed on boating enforcement during the season.

The number of reportable boating accidents was up by 23 for 2002 for a total of 135. This represents a slight increase over the past year's total, but is still lower than the total for any other of the past 10 years. For comparison purposes, the following represents the number of reportable boating accidents for the past 11 years:

1992 - 137	1995 - 173	1998 - 176	2001 - 112
1993 - 143	1996 - 155	1999 - 159	2002 - 135
1994 - 157	1997 - 146	2000 - 155	

Personal watercraft (PWC) continue to represent a disproportionate number of reportable accidents relative to their numbers. Of the 135 reportable accidents, 46 or about 34% were PWC accidents. Overall, the percentage of PWC accidents has remained fairly constant over the past few years. Two fatal PWC accidents were reported, which represents about 9% of the total boating fatalities. With numbers that low, however, statistical relevance is difficult to qualify.

Twenty-three people died in Illinois boating accidents in 2002, nearly four times the number reported for the 2001 season, which saw only six boating related fatalities. As is usually the case, most accidents occurred on clear, sunny days with mild winds and good visibility. Operator inattention or carelessness remains a major cause of accidents contributed to by the lack of boater education.

Once again the one thing that would have saved the most lives this past season would have been for people to wear their PFD's. Of 23 fatalities, 16 would likely have lived if they had only worn their PFD's. Only two people died wearing PFD's, and they died from blunt trauma injuries due to operator inattention of careless operation.

Remember Boat Safety Week, May 17-23, 2003. This year's slogan is "Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear It."

Tom Wakolbinger, Director
Illinois Conservation Police
IDNR, Office of Law Enforcement

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT
2002

Total Accidents	-	**135**	**Fatalities**		
# of Injuries	-	92	#Died by Drowning	-	13
# of Fatalities	-	23	#Died from Trauma	-	5
			# Other	-	1
			# Unknown	-	4
			Total	-	**23**

ACCIDENT TIMES

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY DAY OF THE WEEK

Day Of Week	#Accidents	#Injuries	Fatalities	#Vessels
Sunday	53	33	5	76
Monday	14	11	4	18
Tuesday	6	2	1	7
Wednesday	6	3	1	8
Thursday	7	3	1	11
Friday	14	7	4	17
Saturday	35	33	7	51
Total	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY MONTH OF THE YEAR

Month	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0
March	1	0	1	1
April	4	2	1	5
May	11	5	2	16
June	28	25	1	38
July	34	18	8	47
August	26	19	5	38
September	25	17	4	35
October	5	6	1	7
November	1	0	0	1
December	0	0	0	0
Total	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TIME OF DAY

Time	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Midnight - 6:00 a.m.	8	2	3	10
6:01 a.m. - 12:00 noon	8	2	6	8
12:01 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	85	71	7	121
6:01 p.m. - Midnight	34	17	7	49
Total	135	92	23	188

CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WATER CONDITIONS

Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Calm (Waves < 6")	76	56	9	112
Choppy (Waves 6"-2')	39	27	7	50
Rough (Waves 2'-6')	12	6	4	16
Very Rough (Waves >6')	3	2	2	4
Unknown	5	1	1	6
Total	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Clear	116	84	17	164
Cloudy	12	3	5	15
Fog	1	1	0	1
Rain	4	1	1	6
Hazy	1	1	0	1
Unknown	1	2	0	1
Total	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WIND CONDITIONS

Wind	#Accidents	# Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
None	19	19	0	25
Light (0-6 mph)	81	62	14	118
Moderate (7-14 mph)	25	9	3	32
Strong (15-25 mph)	6	0	5	8
Stormy (>25 mph)	2	1	0	3
Unknown	2	1	1	2
Total	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY VISIBILITY

Visibility	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Good	123	87	21	172
Fair	5	2	1	6
Poor	6	3	1	8
Unknown	1	0	0	2
Total	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT TYPE

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Type Of Accident	#Accidents	# Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Capsizing	6	0	5	6
Collision w/fixed object	18	9	3	21
Collision w/floating object	2	1	0	3
Collision w/vessel	38	35	2	75
Fall in boat	8	8	0	8
Falls overboard	22	12	9	25
Fire/Explosion (fuel)	5	2	0	6
Flooding/Swamping	5	2	3	5
Grounding	4	2	0	4
Sinking	3	1	0	3
Skier Mishap	7	7	0	8
Starting Engine	1	0	1	1
Struck submerged object	4	2	0	5
Struck by boat	7	7	0	12
Struck by motor/propeller	2	2	0	2
Other	3	2	0	4
Total	135	92	23	188

BOAT INFORMATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF BOAT

Type Of Boat	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Auxiliary Sail	0	1	7
Cabin Motorboat	13	4	32
Houseboat	0	0	3
Open Motorboat	48	14	83
Personal Watercraft	29	2	46
Pontoon	1	1	5
Rowboat	0	1	1
Sail Only	1	0	1
Other	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	9
Total	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Vessel Operation	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
At Anchor	0	0	3
Changing Direction	12	3	18
Changing Speed	7	1	10
Cruising	46	5	96
Docking/Undocking	0	0	4
Drifting	18	7	25
Launching	1	0	1
Rowing/Padding	0	1	1
Sailing	1	0	2
Tied to Dock/mooring	2	0	8
Unknown	2	1	13
Other	3	5	7
Total	92	23	188

ACCIDENT CAUSES

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Primary Cause	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Alcohol Use	6	5	2	8
Careless/Reckless Operation	22	21	4	34
Congested Waters	1	0	0	1
Equipment Failure	3	1	0	3
Excessive Speed	13	11	0	20
Failure to Vent	2	1	1	3
Hazardous Waters	11	5	1	12
Hull Failure	1	1	0	1
Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapor	2	1	0	2
Improper Loading	1	1	0	1
Lack of/or Improper Boat Lights	1	0	0	2
Machinery Failure	9	3	1	11
No Proper Lookout	3	3	0	5
Operator Inattention	8	6	1	13
Operator Inexperience	17	9	1	25

Primary Cause of Accident cont.

Primary Cause	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Passenger/Skier Behavior	7	5	2	7
Restricted Vision	1	0	0	2
Rules of the Road Infraction	2	1	0	4
Sharp Turn	3	2	1	4
Standing/Sitting on gunwhales, bow	3	1	2	3
Starting in Gear	1	1	0	2
Wake	4	2	0	6
Weather (Heavy)	5	2	3	6
Other	7	10	3	9
Unknown	2	0	1	4
Total	135	92	23	188

OPERATOR INFORMATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR EDUCATION

Operator Education	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels Operators
American Red Cross	0	0	1
Informal	7	0	18
State Course	12	1	11
U.S. Power Squadron	2	0	4
U.S.C.G. Auxiliary	8	2	18
None	51	12	98
Unknown	12	8	38
Total	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR EXPERIENCE

Operator Experience	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessel Operators
Under 10 hours	10	1	13
10 - 100 hours	15	4	34
Over 100 hours	58	11	112
Unknown	9	7	29
Total	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR AGE

Operator Age	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
< 10	0	0	0
10 - 12	1	0	1
13 - 17	6	1	7
18 - 19	2	1	5
20 - 29	17	2	33
30 - 39	30	4	42
40 - 49	28	6	57
50 - 59	8	1	20
60 - 69	0	1	4
70 +	0	4	5
Unknown	0	3	14
Total	92	23	188

ACCIDENT LOCATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY BODY OF WATER

Body Of Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Cal. Sag Channel	3	4	0	5
Calumet River	1	0	0	1
Carlyle Lake	6	3	1	9
Channel Lake	1	0	0	2
Chicago River	2	0	0	3
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal	1	1	1	1
Clinton Lake	4	3	0	5
Des Plaines River	3	1	3	4
Farm Pond	1	0	1	1
Fox Lake	1	1	0	1
Fox River	5	6	0	10
Gages Lake	1	1	0	2
Glenn Shoals Lake	1	0	1	1
Illinois River	20	16	2	26
Kankakee River	6	7	1	8
Kaskaskia River	2	0	0	3
Kinkaid Lake	4	3	0	5
LaSalle Lake	1	0	1	1
Lake #3	1	0	1	1

Accidents Statistics by Body of Water cont.

Body Of Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Lake Decatur	3	2	0	3
Lake Jacksonville	1	1	0	1
Lake Michigan	20	6	3	29
Lake Shelbyville	6	6	0	8
Lake Springfield	1	1	0	2
Lake Vermilion	1	1	0	2
Lake of Egypt	1	0	0	2
Lincoln Lake	1	0	0	2
Mill Creek Lake	2	1	0	2
Mississippi River	17	12	6	21
Petite Lake	1	0	0	2
Private Pond	1	0	1	1
Quiver Lake	1	1	0	2
Rend Lake	2	2	0	4
Rock River	5	3	1	7
Sangamon River	1	2	0	1
Sangchris Lake	1	0	0	1
Schy-Rush Lake	1	1	0	1
Shannon Shores	1	1	0	1
Vandalia Lake	3	5	0	6
Vermilion River	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	135	92	23	188

BODY OF WATER BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTY

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Cal/Sag Channel				
Cook County	3	4	0	5
Subtotal	3	4	0	5
Calumet River				
Cook County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Carlyle Lake				
Clinton County	6	3	1	9
Subtotal	6	3	1	9
Channel Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessel
Chicago River				
Cook County	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal				
Cook County	1	1	1	1
Subtotal	1	1	1	1
Clinton Lake				
DeWitt County	4	3	0	5
Subtotal	4	3	0	5
Des Plaines River				
Will County	3	1	3	4
Subtotal	3	1	3	4
Farm Pond				
Henry County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Fox Lake				
Lake County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Fox River				
Kane County	1	1	0	2
Lake County	1	2	0	2
McHenry County	3	3	0	6
Subtotal	5	6	0	10
Gages Lake				
Lake County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Glenn Shoals Lake				
Montgomery County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Illinois River				
CalhounCounty	1	1	0	1
Cass County	1	1	0	2
Grundy County	4	3	0	6
Jersey County	3	3	0	3
LaSalle County	3	3	0	4
Morgan County	1	0	1	1
Peoria County	3	3	1	5
Schuyler County	1	0	0	1
Tazewell County	2	2	0	2
Woodford County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	20	16	2	26

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Kankakee River				
Kankakee County	3	3	1	3
Will County	3	4	0	5
Subtotal	6	7	1	8
Kaskaskia River				
Randolph County	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Kinkaid Lake				
Jackson County	4	3	0	5
Subtotal	4	3	0	5
LaSalle Lake				
LaSalle County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Lake #3				
Fulton County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Lake Decatur				
Macon County	3	2	0	3
Subtotal	3	2	0	3
Lake Jacksonville				
Morgan County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Lake Michigan				
Cook County	11	2	2	15
Lake County	9	4	1	14
Subtotal	20	6	3	29
Lake Shelbyville				
Moultrie County	1	0	0	1
Shelby County	5	6	0	7
Subtotal	6	6	0	8
Lake Springfield				
Sangamon County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Lake Vermilion				
Vermilion County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Lake of Egypt				
Williamson County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lincoln Lake				
Grundy County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Mill Creek Lake				
Clark County	2	1	0	2
Subtotal	2	1	0	2

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Mississippi River				
Adams County	1	0	0	1
Calhoun County	2	2	0	2
Carroll County	2	1	0	2
Hancock County	2	0	3	2
Jersey County	3	5	1	4
JoDaviess County	2	3	0	3
Madison County	1	0	1	1
Pike County	1	0	1	1
Rock Island County	3	1	0	5
Subtotal	17	12	6	21
Petite Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Private Pond				
Effingham County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Quiver Lake				
Mason County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Rend Lake				
Franklin County	2	2	0	4
Subtotal	2	2	0	4
Rock River				
Lee County	1	1	0	1
Whiteside County	1	0	1	2
Winnebago County	3	2	0	4
Subtotal	5	3	1	7
Sangamon River				
Sangamon County	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	1	2	0	1
Sangchris Lake				
Christian County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Schy-Rush Lake				
Schuyler County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Shannon Shores				
Kankakee County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Vandalia Lake				
Fayette County	3	5	0	6
Subtotal	3	5	0	6
Vermilion River				
Livingston County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	135	92	23	188

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Adams	1	0	0	1
Calhoun	3	3	0	3
Carroll	2	1	0	2
Cass	1	1	0	2
Christian	1	0	0	1
Clark	2	1	0	2
Clinton	6	3	1	9
Cook	18	7	3	25
DeWitt	4	3	0	5
Effingham	1	0	1	1
Fayette	3	5	0	6
Franklin	2	2	0	4
Fulton	1	0	1	1
Grundy	5	3	0	8
Hancock	2	0	3	2
Henry	1	0	1	1
Jackson	4	3	0	5
Jersey	6	8	1	7
JoDaviess	2	3	0	3
Kane	1	1	0	2
Kankakee	4	4	1	4
LaSalle	4	3	1	5
Lake	14	8	1	23
Lee	1	1	0	1
Livingston	1	1	0	1
Macon	3	2	0	3
Madison	1	0	1	1
Mason	1	1	0	2
McHenry	3	3	0	6
Montgomery	1	0	1	1
Morgan	2	1	1	2
Moultrie	1	0	0	1
Peoria	3	3	1	5
Pike	1	0	1	1
Randolph	2	0	0	3
Rock Island	3	1	0	5
Sangamon	2	3	0	3
Schuyler	2	1	0	2
Shelby	5	6	0	7

Accident Statistics By County cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Tazewell	2	2	0	2
Vermilion	1	1	0	2
Whiteside	1	0	1	2
Will	6	5	3	9
Williamson	1	0	0	2
Winnebago	3	2	0	4
Woodford	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	135	92	23	188

COUNTIES BROKEN DOWN BY BODY OF WATER

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Adams County				
Mississippi River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Calhoun County				
Illinois River	1	1	0	1
Mississippi River	2	2	0	2
Subtotal	3	3	0	3
Carroll County				
Mississippi River	2	1	0	2
Subtotal	2	1	0	2
Cass County				
Illinois River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Christian County				
Sangchris Lake	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Clark County				
Mill Creek Lake	2	1	0	2
Subtotal	2	1	0	2
Clinton County				
Carlyle Lake	6	3	1	9
Subtotal	6	3	1	9
Cook County				
Cal-Sag Channel	3	4	0	5
Calumet River	1	0	0	1
Chicago River	2	0	0	3
Chicago Sanitary Canal	1	1	1	1
Lake Michigan	11	2	2	15
Subtotal	18	7	3	25

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
DeWitt County				
Clinton Lake	4	3	0	5
Subtotal	4	3	0	5
Effingham County				
Private Pond	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Fayette County				
Vandalia Lake	3	5	0	6
Subtotal	3	5	0	6
Franklin County				
Rend Lake	2	2	0	4
Subtotal	2	2	0	4
Fulton County				
Lake #3	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Grundy County				
Illinois River	4	3	0	6
Lincoln Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	5	3	0	8
Hancock County				
Mississippi River	2	0	3	2
Subtotal	2	0	3	2
Henry County				
Farm Pond	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Jackson County				
Kincaid Lake	4	3	0	5
Subtotal	4	3	0	5
Jersey County				
Illinois River	3	3	0	3
Mississippi River	3	5	1	4
Subtotal	6	8	1	7
JoDaviess County				
Mississippi River	2	3	0	3
Subtotal	2	3	0	3
Kane County				
Fox River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Kankakee County				
Kankakee River	3	3	1	3
Shannon Shores	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	4	4	1	4

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
LaSalle County				
Illinois River	3	3	0	4
LaSalle Lake	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	4	3	1	5
Lake County				
Channel Lake	1	0	0	2
Fox Lake	1	1	0	1
Fox River	1	2	0	2
Gages Lake	1	1	0	2
Lake Michigan	9	4	1	14
Petite Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	14	8	1	23
Lee County				
Rock River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Livingston County				
Vermilion River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Macon County				
Lake Decatur	3	2	0	3
Subtotal	3	2	0	3
Madison County				
Mississippi River	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Mason County				
Quiver Lake	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
McHenry County				
Fox River	3	3	0	6
Subtotal	3	3	0	6
Montgomery County				
Glenn Shoals Lake	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Morgan County				
Illinois River	1	0	1	1
Lake Jacksonville	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	2	1	1	2
Moultrie County				
Lake Shelbyville	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Peoria County				
Illinois River	3	3	1	5
Subtotal	3	3	1	5

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Pike County				
Mississippi River	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Randolph County				
Kaskaskia River	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Rock Island County				
Mississippi River	3	1	0	5
Subtotal	3	1	0	5
Sangamon County				
Lake Springfield	1	1	0	2
Sangamon River	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	2	3	0	3
Schuyler County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	1
Schy-Rush Lake	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	2	1	0	2
Shelby County				
Lake Shelbyville	5	6	0	7
Subtotal	5	6	0	7
Tazewell County				
Illinois River	2	2	0	2
Subtotal	2	2	0	2
Vermilion County				
Lake Vermilion	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Whiteside County				
Rock River	1	0	1	2
Subtotal	1	0	1	2
Will County				
Des Plaines River	3	1	3	4
Kankakee River	3	4	0	5
Subtotal	6	5	3	9
Williamson County				
Lake of Egypt	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Winnebago County				
Rock River	3	2	0	4
Subtotal	3	2	0	4
Woodford County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	135	92	23	188

NARRATIVES

1. A boat on LaSalle Lake in LaSalle County was experiencing motor problems when two passengers jumped overboard to swim to shore. Only one made it. The operator stayed with the boat and was able to get the boat to shore. It was later determined that the boat was out of gas. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Engine Failure
   2. Failure of victim to wear PFD

2. A small boat capsized after passing under a bridge on Glenn Shoals Lake in Montgomery County. The boat was accelerating at the time that it capsized. Two passengers were rescued but the operator drowned. It is unknown what caused the boat to capsize. One of the passengers, a small child, was wearing a PFD. The other passenger was not, nor was the victim.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Failure of victim to wear PFD

3. The motor of a boat being operated on the Kankakee River in Kankakee County died and the operator was unable to restart it. The vessel was swept over the dam by the current. Both the passenger and operator were thrown out of the boat. The operator was rescued but the passenger disappeared and drowned. Neither operator or passenger was wearing a PFD.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Engine Failure
   2. Failure of victim to wear PFD

4. The operator of a sailboat on Carlyle Lake in Clinton County was attempting to put up the sails on his 22 ft. sailboat when he slipped off the bow. The operator drowned and his body was found by some fishermen later that evening. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Failure of victim to wear PFD

5. There were no witnesses to this accident but it is believed that the victim was fishing on the private pond in Effingham County when his boat capsized. It is surmised that the operator may have been trying to untangle or free his fishing line when the boat capsized and he fell overboard. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Failure of victim to wear PFD

6. A personal watercraft was being operated on Lake Michigan in Cook County. The watercraft hit a wave and both the operator and passenger were thrown into the water. The passenger, who was not wearing a PFD, drowned.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Failure of victim to wear PFD

7. An operator and his passenger were boating on the Mississippi River in Hancock County when the passenger fell overboard and drowned. The operator stated that the passenger was attempting to sit down when he lost his balance and fell overboard. The victim was not wearing a PFD and his BAC was .271.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Failure of victim to wear PFD
   2. Alcohol consumption by victim

8. Two vessels were boating on the Rock River in Whiteside County when the incident occurred. Vessel 2 came up behind vessel 1 and struck its wake causing the operator of vessel 2 to fall out of his boat. Vessel 1 operator picked up operator 2 from the water. Operator 2 then tried to jump into his boat that was circling but missed and had to be retrieved from the water again. Operator 2 insisted that he wanted to make a second attempt at jumping into his boat but as vessel 1 approached, vessel 2, it struck vessel 1 knocking both men into the water . Vessel 1 operator was struck and killed by the prop of vessel 2. Vessel 2 operator was later charged and convicted of careless/reckless operation.

   Contributing Factors:

   1. Careless/reckless operation
   2. Alcohol use by the passenger/victim may have impaired his judgement. Coroner's report confirmed a BAC of .07.
   3. Although the victim was not wearing a PFD, he died from trauma, not from drowning.

9. The operator of a boat drowned after he fell overboard into a small lake in Fulton County. It appears that he may have been trying to clean moss off of his prop when he fell in. He was not wearing a PFD.

Contributing Factors

1. Leaning too far off of the back of the boat
2. Failure of victim to wear a PFD

10. The operator of a boat on the Mississippi River in Pike County was backing away from an island when one of his passengers, who had been standing behind him, fell overboard. The operator grabbed a PFD, put it on and jumped into the water to rescue his passenger. The victim disappeared under the water and his body wasn't found until two days later. The victim was not wearing a PFD. Although the operator appeared to be under the influence and admitted to drinking heavily, OUI processing was not feasible due to the amount of time that had lapsed since the operator had last operated the boat and when the officers interviewed him. The coroner was unable to test the victim's body for alcohol content due to the amount of time the subject was in the water.

Contributing Factors

1. Possible alcohol involvement
2. Failure of victim to wear a PFD

11. After Venetian Night on Lake Michigan in Cook County, a boat operator drove his boat into the Monroe Harbor breakwall. The victim, a passenger, was ejected from the boat onto the rocks of the breakwall. He died later at the hospital. The operator was arrested for OUI and reckless homicide. His BAC was .183.

Contributing Factors:

1. Alcohol consumption by the operator
2. Careless/reckless operation

12. A boat on the Illinois River in Morgan County was traveling at a high rate of speed and made a hard right turn causing the operator to be thrown from the boat. The boat began circling and the victim was struck and killed by the prop. The victim did not use the required lanyard . His BAC was .13.

Contributing Factors:

1. Careless/reckless operation (Excessive speed and sharp turn)
2. Failure to have lanyard properly attached to engine cut-off switch
3. Alcohol consumption by operator/victim

13. There were no actual witnesses to this accident although there were reports from individual who saw the boat operating prior to the mishap and after. The operator motored his boat 15-20' alongside the white water coming from the open gate of the dam on the Mississippi River in Hancock County. The vessel capsized and both occupants were thrown into the water and drowned. The operator was not wearing a PFD but his passenger was.

Contributing Factors:

1. Careless/reckless operation
2. Failure of the operator to wear a PFD although the hydraulics and current was so strong it may not have made a difference since the passenger, who was wearing a PFD, succumbed and drowned also.

14. Three subjects were fishing on the DesPlaines River in Will County in a 14' aluminum jon boat. The boat capsized and all three men drowned. The boat was overloaded by weight and winds were gusting up to 25 mph creating waves up to 3'. It is believed that the waves capsized the boat. No PFDs were in the boat. Toxicology reports on the operator revealed metabolites of cocaine.

Contributing Factors:

1. Overloading
2. Severe weather causing hazardous waves
3. Failure of victims to wear PFDs (none available in the boat)
4. Possible impairment of operator due to illegal controlled substance in his system

15. The operator of a personal watercraft was jumping wakes on the Illinois River in Peoria County. He was jumping wakes when he was hit by a 42' cruiser. A passenger on the PWC was killed instantly. The operator and another passenger were injured. Although the deceased passenger was not wearing a PFD, it did not contribute to his death because he died of severe trauma. The operator was charged with reckless and careless operation of a watercraft and interference with navigation.

Contributing Factors:

1. Careless/reckless operation

16. It is unknown why the operator of a motorboat fell overboard and drowned on the Mississippi River in Madison County. The investigating officer could only surmise that due to the configuration of the boat, the operator had to stand off center of the steering console. This may have caused him to pull on the steering wheel causing the boat to turn sharply throwing him overboard. The victim was not wearing a PFD although one was available on board.

Contributing Factors:

1. Failure of victim to wear PFD

17. A 76-year old man drowned after the small rowboat he was in capsized on a farm pond in Henry County. The victim had launched the boat with one oar and some fishing equipment. It is unknown what cause the boat to capsize. There were no PFDs on board. The autopsy revealed that the victim had a BAC of .11.

    Contributing Factors

    1. Failure of victim to wear PFD
    2. Alcohol consumption by the operator

18. A boat operator died after succumbing to carbon monoxide poisoning after the engine and muffler of his boat failed on Lake Michigan in Cook County. When the muffler failed, it allowed water to enter the bilge and the boat sank. The victim died attempting to repair the engine prior to the boat sinking. He was already deceased when the boat sank. His CO level was 51%.

    Contributing Factors

    1. Engine Failure

19. The 15-year old passenger of a pleasure boat drowned after the boat was struck by a barge on the Mississippi River in Jersey County. All of the occupants jumped off the boat and attempted to swim to shore. The 15-year old didn't make it and to date, his body has not been found. The victim was not wearing a PFD according to witness reports. The operator was arrested for OUI. The case is still under investigation.

    Contributing Factors:

    1. Operator under the influence of alcohol
    2. Failure of victim to wear a PFD

20. The operator of a boat became distracted when he tried to pluck an insect off of one of his sleeping passengers. He lost control of the boat and it struck the shoreline ejecting the passenger. The passenger sustained severe head trauma and later died at the hospital. The accident occurred on the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal in Cook County.

    Contributing Factors

    1. Operator inattention