ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Show Someone You Care

Wear a PFD!

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

2004

Illinois Boating Accident Report - 2004

In 2004, there were 78 accidents, resulting in 45 injuries and 18 deaths. In 2003, there were 84 accidents, resulting in 63 injuries and 13 deaths. Boating enforcement is considered to be a high priority and maximum available coverage was provided. During the 2004 recreational boating season, there were 189 operating under the influence (OUI) of alcohol or drugs arrests. The 189 OUI arrests are above the ten year average of 164 OUI arrests. Conservation Police Officers emphasis on OUI enforcement remains a high priority. All officers have been trained in OUI detection and arrest procedures. Conservation Police Officers issued 1,509 citations and 1,647 written warnings for various infractions of the Boat Registration and Safety Act during the 2004 season.

Boating accident reports indicate that the majority of accidents occur between June and August, on Saturday or Sunday, between noon and six at night. Conditions are usually clear with good visibility, light winds, and calm water. Most accidents involve operators between the ages of twenty and forty who have over one hundred hours of boating experience but have little or no classroom boating safety instruction. They also involve open motorboats cruising in a carelessness/reckless manner when they collided with another boat.

The number of reportable boating accidents was down to an all time low (78); however, the severity of the accidents has risen. During 2004, people involved in a boating accident resulted in a 23% probability of dying. This percentage is at an all time high.

Eighteen people died in Illinois boating accidents in 2004, which is an increase from the thirteen reported for the 2003 season. As is usually the case, most fatalities occurred on clear, sunny days with mild winds and good visibility. Alcohol use along with operator inattention or carelessness remains a major cause of fatalities 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 Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's). Of 18 fatalities, 15 may possibly have survived if they had only worn their PFD's. Three people died from blunt force trauma and other injuries. The leading type of accidents involving fatalities were falling overboard and capsizing.

The State of Illinois does not require the wearing of a Coast Guard-approved PFD. However, for persons under the age of 13 and operators/passengers on personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft, wearing a Coast Guard-approved PFD is required by law. The most proactive action a boater can do to ensure their safety on the water is by wearing a Coast Guard-approved PFD that is the appropriate size and in serviceable condition.

The Department of Natural Resources challenges all Conservation Police Officers and Volunteer Boat Safety Instructors to teach as many safety classes as possible, focusing on PFDs, Inland Rules to Navigation, Boating Under the Influence and Reckless/Careless Operation.

Boat Safe & Wear a PFD,

Captain Gregory P. Hunter, 273
Region I Commander
Illinois Boating Law Administrator

Illinois Boating Accidents 1993 - 2004

Between 1993 - 2004, the State of Illinois registered 4,178,914 recreational boats. During these years 1,674 boating accidents were reported that resulted in 214 fatalities, 1023 injuries. For comparison purposes, the following represents the number of reportable boating accidents, injuries, fatalities, and vessels for the past 11 years:

Year	Total Number of Accidents	Total Number of Injuries	Total Number of Fatalities	Total Number of Vessels	Percentage of Accidents Resulting in Fatality
1993	143	94	32	163	22.38%
1994	157	131	17	211	10.83%
1995	173	88	16	228	9.25%
1996	155	90	27	No Data	17.42%
1997	146	81	14	224	9.59%
1998	176	81	19	No Data	10.80%
1999	159	107	13	238	8.18%
2000	155	76	14	231	9.03%
2001	112	75	8	171	7.14%
2002	135	92	23	188	17.04%
2003*	84	63	13	122	15.48%
2004*	78	45	18	103	23.08%
Total	1673	1023	214	1879	12.79%

* In 2003 the Coast Guard's reporting criteria for property damage went from $500 to $2,000.

Overall, operator inattention, carelessness/reckless operation, operator inexperience, and hazardous waters are the leading contributing factors of all reported accidents.

Alcohol was involved in 21% of all boating fatalities between 2000-2004.

Consistent through the years, approximately 90% of all reported fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received or it was unknown if the operator had received boating safety instruction.

Since 1996, boat accidents occurring on private/ farm ponds (9) resulted in a 100% fatality rate.

Since 1993, the Illinois River (262) accounted for the highest number of boating accidents followed by the Mississippi River (188) and Lake Michigan (182). Since 1996, the following waterways had the highest number of boating fatalities: Mississippi River (21), Illinois River (12) and Lake Michigan (9).

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT
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Total Accidents	78	Fatalities	
# of Injuries	45	#Died by Drowning	15
# of Fatalities	18	#Died from Trauma	3
# of Vessels	103	# Other	0
		# Unknown	0
		Total	**18**

ACCIDENT TIMES

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY DAY OF THE WEEK

Day of Week	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Sunday	23	16	8	31
Monday	7	2	2	8
Tuesday	6	6	2	6
Wednesday	4	2	0	4
Thursday	8	3	1	12
Friday	7	1	3	9
Saturday	23	15	2	33
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY MONTH OF THE YEAR

Month	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0
March	3	0	0	3
April	2	0	2	2
May	8	5	3	11
June	12	7	3	15
July	23	14	6	30
August	19	12	2	28
September	8	4	1	11
October	0	0	0	0
November	2	3	0	2
December	1	0	0	1
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TIME OF DAY

Time	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Midnight - 6:00 a.m.	5	5	2	7
6:01 a.m. - 12:00 noon	7	2	2	9
12:01 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	41	20	9	52
6:01 p.m. - Midnight	25	18	5	35
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WATER CONDITIONS

Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Calm (Waves < 6")	51	37	15	69
Choppy (Waves 6"-2')	20	7	2	26
Rough (Waves 2'-6')	4	1	1	5
Very Rough (Waves >6')	3	0	0	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Clear	62	39	13	83
Cloudy	16	6	5	20
Fog	0	0	0	0
Rain	0	0	0	0
Hazy	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WIND CONDITIONS

Wind	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
None	12	9	4	18
Light (0-6 mph)	46	31	10	59
Moderate (7-14 mph)	11	4	3	15
Strong(15-25 mph)	4	1	1	6
Stormy (>25 mph)	4	0	0	4
Unknown	1	0	0	1
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY VISIBILITY

Visibility	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Good	71	36	15	93
Fair	6	8	2	9
Poor	1	1	1	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT TYPE

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Type Of Accident	#Accidents	# Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Capsizing	4	0	4	4
Collision w/fixed object	6	9	1	6
Collision w/floating object	1	0	0	2
Collision w/vessel	25	14	2	45
Fall in boat	1	1	0	1
Falls overboard	11	6	9	11
Fire/Explosion (fuel)	7	3	0	8
Flooding/Swamping	7	2	0	7
Grounding	2	1	0	2
Sinking	2	0	1	2
Skier Mishap	3	3	0	3
Starting Engine	0	0	0	0
Struck submerged object	2	2	0	2
Struck by boat	1	1	0	1
Struck by motor/propeller	3	3	0	3
Other	3	0	1	6
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

BOAT INFORMATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF BOAT

Type Of Boat	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Auxiliary Sail	0	0	2
Cabin Motorboat	4	1	12
Houseboat	0	0	2
Open Motorboat	26	8	40
Personal Watercraft	13	0	28
Pontoon	1	3	5
Rowboat	0	2	2
Sail Only	0	0	3
Other	1	4	5
Unknown	0	0	4
Total	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Vessel Operation	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
At Anchor	0	0	5
Changing Direction	1	0	3
Changing Speed	4	3	14
Cruising	31	7	49
Docking/Undocking	0	0	2
Drifting	4	3	11
Launching	0	0	0
Rowing/Padding	0	3	2
Sailing	0	0	2
Tied to Dock/mooring	1	0	5
Unknown	0	1	4
Other	4	1	6
Total	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT CAUSES

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Primary Cause	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Alcohol Use	5	2	5	7
Careless/Reckless Operation	12	10	1	23
Congested Waters	1	0	0	1
Equipment Failure	9	5	2	9
Electrical Wiring	0	0	0	0
Excessive Speed	4	6	0	5
Failure to Vent	4	0	0	4
Hazardous Waters	5	1	0	5
Hull Failure	0	0	0	0
Improper Anchoring	1	0	0	2
No Proper Lookout	2	4	0	2
Operator Inattention	9	9	1	14
Operator Inexperience	4	4	1	6
Restricted Vision	0	0	0	0
Sharp Turn	1	0	1	1
Standing/Sitting on gunwales, bow	1	0	1	1
Struck Submerged/Floating Object	3	2	0	3
Wake	1	0	0	1
Weather (Heavy)	2	0	1	2
Other	8	2	4	9
Unknown	6	0	1	8
Total	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

OPERATOR INFORMATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR EDUCATION

Operator Education	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
American Red Cross	0	0	0
Informal	8	0	8
State Course	7	1	12
U.S. Power Squadron	1	0	4
U.S.C.G. Auxiliary	1	0	6
None	19	5	44
Unknown	9	12	29
Total	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR EXPERIENCE

Operator Experience	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Under 10 hours	3	0	8
10 - 100 hours	11	3	22
Over 100 hours	23	8	56
Unknown	8	7	17
Total	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR AGE

Operator Age	#Injuries	Fatalities	#Vessels
< 10	0	0	0
10-12	0	0	1
13-17	2	0	6
18-19	5	3	8
20-29	13	5	22
30-39	10	2	18
40-49	5	3	18
50-59	8	1	14
60-69	2	2	8
70 +	0	2	2
Unknown	0	0	6
Total	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT LOCATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY BODY OF WATER

Body Of Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Apple Canyon Lake	1	1	0	1
Bluff Lake	1	0	0	1
Cal Sag Ship Canal	1	3	1	1
Carlyle Lake	2	1	1	3
Cedar Lake	1	0	1	1
Channel lake	1	0	0	1
Clinton Lake	3	3	0	3
Crab Orchard Lake	1	0	0	1
Crow Creek	1	1	0	1
Des Plaines River	2	0	1	4
Embarras River	1	0	1	1
Evergreen Lake	1	0	1	1
Fox River	2	2	0	3
Goose Lake	1	0	0	1
Illinois River	11	6	2	14
Kankakee River	1	1	0	1
Kaskaskia River	3	5	1	4
Kinkaid Lake	2	1	0	3
Lake Bloomington	1	0	1	1
Lake Carroll	1	0	0	2
Lake Killarney	1	0	1	1
Lake Mattoon	1	0	0	1
Lake Michigan	6	0	0	10
Lake Shelbyville	1	2	0	2
Lake Springfield	2	0	0	3
Lake Taylorville	1	2	0	1
Lake Vermilion	1	1	0	1
Lake Wildwood	1	0	0	2
LaSalle Lake	2	0	0	2
Millcreek Lake	1	1	0	1
Mississippi River	10	8	2	12
Otter Lake	1	3	0	1
Pistakee Lake	3	0	0	5
Private Pond	1	0	2	1
Rend Lake	1	1	0	2
Rock River	7	3	3	10
TOTAL	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

BODY OF WATER BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTY

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Apple Canyon Lake				
JoDaviess County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Bluff Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Cal Sag Ship Canal				
Cook County	1	3	1	1
Subtotal	1	3	1	1
Carlyle Lake				
Clinton County	2	1	1	3
Subtotal	2	1	1	3
Cedar Lake				
Jackson County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Channel lake				
Cook County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Clinton Lake				
DeWitt County	3	3	0	3
Subtotal	3	3	0	3
Crab Orchard Lake				
Williamson County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Crow Creek				
Marshall County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Des Plaines River				
Will County	2	0	1	4
Subtotal	2	0	1	4
Embarras River				
Coles County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Evergreen Lake				
McLean County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Fox River				
Lake County	1	1	0	1
McHenry County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	2	2	0	3
Goose Lake				
St. Clair County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Illinois River				
Bureau County	1	1	0	2
Grundy County	2	1	1	2
Jersey County	1	0	0	1
LaSalle County	2	1	0	2
Peoria County	1	0	1	2
Putnam County	1	1	0	1
Tazewell County	3	2	0	4
Subtotal	11	6	2	14
Kankakee River				
Will County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Kaskaskia River				
Fayette County	1	1	0	1
Randolph County	1	0	1	1
St. Clair County	1	4	0	2
Subtotal	3	5	1	4
Kinkaid Lake				
Jackson County	2	1	0	3
Subtotal	2	1	0	3
Lake Bloomington				
McLean County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Lake Carroll				
Carroll County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lake Killarney				
McHenry County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Lake Mattoon				
Cumberland County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Lake Michigan				
Cook County	5	0	0	9
Lake County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	6	0	0	10
Lake Shelbyville				
Shelby County	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
Lake Springfield				
Sangamon County	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Lake Taylorville				
Christian County	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	1	2	0	1

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Lake Vermilion				
Vermilion County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Lake Wildwood				
Marshall County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
LaSalle Lake				
LaSalle County	2	0	0	2
Subtotal	2	0	0	2
Millcreek Lake				
Clark County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Mississippi River				
Calhoun County	3	2	1	3
Carroll County	3	2	0	4
JoDaviess County	2	4	0	3
Muscatine County	1	0	1	1
Rock Island County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	10	8	2	12
Otter Lake				
Macoupin County	1	3	0	1
Subtotal	1	3	0	1
Pistakee Lake				
Lake County	3	0	0	5
Subtotal	3	0	0	5
Private Pond				
McHenry County	1	0	2	1
Subtotal	1	0	2	1
Rend Lake				
Franklin County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Rock River				
Henry County	1	1	0	1
Lee County	1	1	0	2
Ogle County	2	0	2	1
Rock Island County	1	0	1	1
Winnebago County	2	1	0	3
Subtotal	7	3	3	10
TOTAL	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Bureau County	1	1	0	2
Calhoun County	4	2	1	4
Carroll County	3	2	0	5
Christian County	1	2	0	1
Clark County	1	1	0	1
Clinton County	2	1	1	3
Coles County	1	0	1	1
Cook County	6	3	1	10
Cumberland County	1	0	0	1
Dewitt County	3	3	0	3
Fayette County	1	1	0	1
Franklin County	1	1	0	2
Grundy County	2	1	1	2
Henry County	1	1	0	1
Jackson County	3	1	1	4
Jersey County	1	0	0	1
JoDaviess County	3	5	0	4
Lake County	7	1	0	9
LaSalle County	4	1	0	4
Lee County	1	1	0	2
Macoupin County	1	3	0	1
Marshall County	2	1	0	3
McHenry County	3	1	3	4
McLean County	2	0	2	2
Muscatine County	1	0	1	1
Ogle County	2	0	2	3
Peoria County	1	0	1	2
Putnam County	1	1	0	1
Randolph County	1	0	1	1
Rock Island County	2	0	1	2
Sangamon County	2	0	0	3
Shelby County	1	2	0	2
St Clair County	2	4	0	3
Tazewell County	3	2	0	4
Vermilion County	1	1	0	1
Will County	3	1	1	5
Williamson County	1	0	0	1
Winnebago County	2	1	0	3
TOTAL	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

COUNTIES BROKEN DOWN BY BODY OF WATER

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Bureau County				
Illinois River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Calhoun County				
Mississippi River	4	2	1	4
Subtotal	4	2	1	4
Carroll County				
Lake Carroll	1	0	0	2
Mississippi River	2	2	0	3
Subtotal	3	2	0	5
Christian County				
Lake Taylorville	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	1	2	0	1
Clark County				
Millcreek Lake	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Clinton County				
Carlyle Lake	2	1	1	3
Subtotal	2	1	1	3
Coles County				
Embarras River	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Cook County				
Cal Sag Ship Canal	1	3	1	1
Lake Michigan	5	0	0	9
Subtotal	6	3	1	10
Cumberland County				
Lake Mattoon	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Dewitt County				
Clinton Lake	3	3	0	3
Subtotal	3	3	0	3
Fayette County				
Kaskaskia River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Franklin County				
Rend Lake	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Grundy County				
Illinois River	2	1	1	2
Subtotal	2	1	1	2
Henry County				
Rock River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Jackson County				
Cedar Lake	1	0	1	1
Kinkaid Lake	2	1	0	3
Subtotal	3	1	1	4
Jersey County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
JoDaviess County				
Apple Canyon Lake	1	1	0	1
Mississippi River	2	4	0	3
Subtotal	3	5	0	4
Lake County				
Bluff Lake	1	0	0	1
Channel lake	1	0	0	1
Fox River	1	1	0	1
Lake Michigan	1	0	0	1
Pistakee Lake	3	0	0	5
Subtotal	7	1	0	9
LaSalle County				
Illinois River	3	2	0	3
LaSalle Lake	2	0	0	2
Subtotal	5	2	0	5
Lee County				
Rock River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Macoupin County				
Otter Lake	1	3	0	1
Subtotal	1	3	0	1
Marshall County				
Crow Creek	1	1	0	1
Lake Wildwood	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	2	1	0	3
McHenry County				
Fox River	1	1	0	2
Lake Killarney	1	0	1	1
Private Pond	1	0	2	1
Subtotal	3	1	3	4
McLean County				
Evergreen Lake	1	0	1	1
Lake Bloomington	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	2	0	2	2
Muscatine County				
Mississippi River	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Ogle County				
Rock River	2	0	2	3
Subtotal	2	0	2	3
Peoria County				
Illinois River	1	0	1	2
Subtotal	1	0	1	2
Randolph County				
Kaskaskia River	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Rock Island County				
Rock River	1	0	1	1
Mississippi River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	2	0	1	2
Sangamon County				
Lake Springfield	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Shelby County				
Lake Shelbyville	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
St Clair County				
Goose Lake	1	0	0	1
Kaskaskia River	1	4	0	2
Subtotal	2	4	0	3
Tazewell County				
Illinois River	3	2	0	4
Subtotal	3	2	0	4
Vermilion County				
Lake Vermilion	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Will County				
Des Plaines River	2	0	1	4
Kankakee River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	3	1	1	5
Williamson County				
Crab Orchard Lake	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Winnebago County				
Rock River	2	1	0	3
Subtotal	2	1	0	3
TOTAL	**78**	**45**	**18**	**103**

NARRATIVES

1. Two subjects were in a 16ft canoe that capsized as they were paddling on a lake. After falling into the water, the subjects attempted to upright the canoe but were unsuccessful. The subjects started to swim to shore, but found it difficult because of the clothes they were wearing. While the survivor was removing some clothes and his shoes to make it easier to swim, he went under the surface of the water a couple of times. After removing some restrictive clothing/shoes and returning to the surface, the survivor lost sight of the victim. The survivor was able to swim to shore for help. Neither subject was wearing a PFD. The victim's BAC was .109 and his body was recovered 4 days later. The survivor had not been drinking. The subjects had failed to equip the canoe with PFDs, which they had left at their campsite.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Insufficient amount/No PFDs on canoe
3. Alcohol use
4. Operator Inexperience

2. While attempting to anchor a boat on a river, the anchor rope got wrapped around the victim's ankle. When the victim threw the anchor into the river, the rope tightened around his ankle. In an attempt to create slack in the rope, the victim jumped into the river. Once in the river, the rope remained tight around the victims ankle due to the pull of the current. One of the passengers in the boat entered the river in an attempt to help free the victim but was unsuccessful. The passengers in the boat were unable to get it started and had no experience in operating a watercraft. The victim's body was recovered by divers later in the day. The victim tested positive for cannabis and had a BAC of .045.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Alcohol/drug use

3. The operator/victim of a boat drowned after the boat he was in took a wave over the bow. The victim had idled the boat down as he approached a trestle in rough waters. The bow of the boat was driven into/beneath the water and the waves caused the boat to capsize. The passengers swam to shore and the victim, who was not a swimmer, became submerged and did not resurface. The victim's body was recovered two day later. The victim had been consuming alcohol.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Alcohol use
3. Weather

4. A group of people were traveling on a pontoon boat when the victim/passenger fell overboard. The victim had knelt on a storage box and was urinating over the side of the boat when he fell in. The operator immediately hit the kill switch to avoid striking the victim with the prop. The operator then tried to restart the motor to rescue the victim, but the motor was flooded and the boat continued to float away from the victim. The victim appeared to be treading water and then started to panic. The operator attempted to rescue the victim by swimming to him, but the victim started to struggle and pull the operator under the water. The operator was able to free himself from the victim's grasp before being pulled under the surface. The victim's body was recovered three days later. The operators BAC was .091. The victim had a BAC of .25.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Insufficient amount of PFD's on boat
3. Alcohol use

5. A father drowned while attempting to retrieve his two daughters from a lake after falling overboard. The two young girls were holding hands and dipping their hands and feet in the water over the edge of the boat. One of the girls fell in causing the other girl to fall in with her. They were both wearing PFDs. The father immediately jumped in after the girls, followed by the mother. The family drifted apart in the water away from the boat. Shortly thereafter, the father went under the surface of the water and did not come back up. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

Contributing Factors: 1. Failure to wear PFD

6. The victim was observed standing in a row boat while working on his fishing pole. The victim fell backwards out of the boat and into the water where he started to struggle and yell for help. A nearby boater paddled to the victim's location and found him face down in the water. The victim was partially pulled into the boat and taken to shore where CPR was unsuccessfully administered. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

Contributing Factors: 1. Failure to wear PFD

7. Two subjects were in the process of baiting trot lines out of a 12 ft boat when a seat broke, causing one of the subjects to fall into the river. When the subject surfaced, he noticed that the boat he was in had capsized and the victim was in the water struggling. Once the survivor made it back to the boat, he noticed that the victim was floating face down in the water. The survivor floated down stream with the boat until he managed to get on land. The victim was later found face down and caught on a tree limb in the water near the scene of the accident. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Equipment Failure
3. Insufficient/No PFDs on boat

8. A family reported a fishermen missing after he had failed to show up at a pre-arranged time and location on the river. The fisherman/victim was later found floating in the river and his boat was located with the motor idling. The victim was not wearing a PFD and it was not determined how the victim ended up in the water. The victim tested positive for cannabis and his BAC was .281.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Insufficient/No PFDs on boat
3. Alcohol/Drug use

9. While taking a boat ride on the river, a subject noticed an empty boat floating near the shore. The subject started to tow the boat back to a boat ramp when he noticed the boat was difficult to tow and was dragging something. The subject observed a cast line over the side of the boat and pulled on it to free it from the bottom. The subject discovered the victim tangled in the line. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD

10. Two subjects were traveling on the river in a 17 ft jon boat when the operator made a sharp turn. Both operator and passenger were thrown from the boat into the river where the operator, who could not swim, drowned. The victim's body was recovered shortly after the incident and attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. The victim was not wearing a PFD and had a BAC of .061.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Careless/Reckless operation
3. Alcohol use

11. Four subjects decided to go for a canoe ride in a small private pond after they had been drinking alcohol. The subjects had no paddles for the canoe, so they paddled with their hands. The canoe capsized and two of the victims failed to surface. The survivors swam to shore and called for help. While waiting for police/ems personnel to arrive, one of the victims surfaced and was brought to shore by the survivors. Divers later recovered the body of the second victim.

Contributing Factors:
1. Failure to wear PFD
2. Insufficient/No PFDs on canoe
3. Alcohol use
4. Overloading
5. Operator inexperience

12. The operator of a motorboat was traveling upstream on a river steering in a zig- zag pattern to create a wake for a jet skier to jump. The operator of the motorboat made an unannounced left turn to head back down the river. The operator of the jet ski could not slow down or turn and struck the motorboat. The impact caused the jet ski to go airborne over the motorboat and strike a passenger in the boat. The passenger was thrown out of the boat and died due to blunt force injuries from the impacting jet ski.

Contributing Factors:
1. Careless/Reckless operation
2. Excessive speed
3. Operator Inattention

13. Several subjects were traveling on a motorboat at night when they struck the side of an improperly lighted barge that was sideways in a river channel. The operator of the motorboat had been consuming alcohol and struck a single barge being towed, throwing one passenger out of the boat and into a pile of sand being carried by the barge. Other passengers were thrown into the water and into the side of the barge. The boat sank shortly after striking the barge and was later recovered down stream. The victim died from blunt force trauma caused by being thrown from the boat and impacting the barge. The operator's BAC was .131.

Contributing Factors:
1. Lack of/or improper boat lights
2. Alcohol use

14. A subject was watching TV in his cabin along a river when he heard a noise and looked out his window to see a canoe under power without an operator. As the canoe continued upstream, it turned and crashed into some trees. The subject and a friend went out onto the river to look for the operator but were unsuccessful. The victim's body was found two days later. It is unknown how the victim fell overboard. The victim was not wearing a PFD.

Contributing Factors:
1. Health problems
2. Failure to wear PFD

15. Several subjects were cruising in a motorboat when the operator lost control and crashed the boat into the bank wall of a canal. The operator reported that he struck something in the water causing him to loose his balance and fall to his knees. The operator then grabbed the steering wheel to pull himself up when they impacted the wall. A passenger died from blunt force trauma after being thrown forward from the impact. The operator and other passenger were also injured. Rescue operations were hindered due to the fact that no one on the boat knew their location.

Contributing Factors:
1. Operator inattention
2. Careless/Reckless operation

16. A female passenger fell overboard as she attempted to urinate off the side of a moving pontoon boat at night. The victim entered the water to help the female without wearing a PFD. The operator of the boat entered the water to help after he placed a PFD on and obtained two additional PFDs for the victim and female passenger. The victim and female passenger both refused to put PFDs on when the operator swam to them. The female was eventually rescued after she was found hanging onto a power plant intake gate. She continually refused to put a PFD on and fought with EMS personnel until she was pulled/forced from the water. The victim's body was recovered the next day and toxicology reports showed his BAC to be .211. The female had also been drinking alcohol.

Contributing Factors:
1. Alcohol use
2. Failure to wear PFD
3. Passenger behavior

17. Two subjects were on a river when they noticed their boat was taking on water. In an attempt to remove the water from the boat, the drain plug was removed and the throttle was engaged to place the boat on plane. This would cause the water in the boat to move to the rear and exit the drain plug. Unfortunately, when an attempt was made to put the boat on plane, the water in the boat rushed to the rear and caused the boat to sit lower in the water. Water from the river then poured over the stern and sank the boat. Both subjects were able to swim to shore. Once on shore, the victim noticed a cooler floating in the river and swam back out to retrieve it. The victim disappeared under the surface of the water. The victim's body was later located by divers near the area of the sunken boat. The operator's BAC was .106 (3 hours after the incident). The victim had also been consuming alcohol. It was later discovered that the drain plug did not fit properly, which caused water to enter the boat below a false floor unnoticed.

Contributing Factors:
1. Alcohol use
2. Operator Inattention
3. Equipment failure
4. Failure to wear PFD