

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

1969 BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

The following information is contained in Boating Accident Reports submitted to this Department on 101 reportable boating accidents during the 1969 boating season, involving 136 boats. There were 42 fatalities, 37 resulting from drownings and 5 from multiple injuries and shock. Injuries to 54 boaters also resulted. Property damage amounted to \$95,795.00.

Type, Nature or Classification of Accident

Collision with another vessel	26
Falls overboard	16
Capsizing	12
Collision, fixed object	8
Explosion, fuel	7
Sinking	6
Collision, floating or submerged object	6
Flooding	3
Hit by boat or propeller	3
Falls in boat	2
Grounding	1
Boats hit while docked	3
Boat hit while on lift	1
Skier fell, caused by floating weeds	1
Pulled over dam, minor injury	1
Swept over dam in swimming pool float	1
Drifted into dam gates	1
Skier hit by boat	1
Fall, adjusting sails	1
Fall, pushing boat off bank	1

101

Cause of Accident or Drowning

Careless and reckless operation, and speed	10
Storm, wind, rough water (one boat too small and one an inflatable raft)	7
Inattention	5
Drinking	5
Overloaded	4
Pulling and watching skiers	4
Inexperience	4
Leak in gas tank	3
Hit waves, turned to miss wave	3
Submerged logs and debris	4
Sun glare	2
Started motor while standing in boat, and started motor in gear -	2
Vandalism, boats cut loose from mooring	2
No observer, skier pulled over dam	1
Large man stood up in boat	1
Flooded by large cruiser and wake from passing boats	3
Mechanical failure, steering and short in wire	3
No lights, inadequate lighting	3

2.

Cause of Accident or Drowning (cont.)

Confusion as to navigation lights and shore lights	1
Lost control of steering wheel	1
Speed at harbor	1
Raising nets	1
Suicide	1
No chain on front of pontoon (drowning)	1
Went on deck to fix faulty light	1
Boat swamped	1
Adjusting sails	1
Pushing boat off bank	1
Unknown	25

101

DROWNINGS

Type accident resulting in drowning

Months in which Drownings Occurred

Capsizing, overloaded	4 persons
Falls overboard, cause unknown	6
Falls overboard, hit wave	1
Falls overboard, raising nets	1
Falls overboard, drinking	1
Falls overboard, wake	1
Falls overboard, went on deck to fix faulty light -	1
Falls overboard, no chain across pontoon	1
Capsizing, falls overboard	2
Capsizing, large man stood up in boat	1
Canoe tipped	2
Sinking	3
Standing, starting motor	1
Starting motor in gear	1
Swept over dam in swimming pool float	1
Suicide	1
Collision, struck debris	2
Collision, floating object, also overloaded	1
Strong winds, inflatable raft	2
Wind over 40 mph, boat small	1
Fall, pushing boat off bank	1
Fall, adjusting sails	1
Unknown	1

March	1
April	4
May	2
June	7
July	7
August	11
Sept.	3
October	1
November	1

37

No <u>life preservers</u> on board or not used, resulting in drowning -	32
Used, but drowning resulted	3
Unknown	2

37

Children under 10 years drowned

9 yr. boy found boat, no life preservers
8 yr. boy not wearing life preserver and
no chain across front of pontoon

3 children wearing life vests were saved
when boat flooded rapidly and sank after
striking floating object.

37

Of the boating accidents reported, 3 involved rented boats, 2 boats were found,
2 taken without permission and 1 borrowed.

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

March	1	Rivers	46
April	5	Small inland lakes	23
May	10	Lake Michigan	13
June	18	Chain of Lakes	10
July	30	Carlyle Lake	7
August	26	Crab Orchard Lake	2
September	9		
October	1		101
November	1		
	<u>101</u>		

Counties in which Accidents Occurred

Bond	1	* McHenry	12
Boone	1	Madison	2
Calhoun	2	Marion	1
Carroll	2	Mason	1
Clark	1	Montgomery	1
Clinton	6	Ogle	2
* Cook	13	Peoria	2
Effingham	1	Pike	1
Fayette	2	Rock Island	3
Franklin	1	Sangamon	2
Grundy	7	Vermilion	1
Henderson	1	Warren	1
Kane	1	Whiteside	3
Kankakee	3	Will	3
* Lake	13	Williamson	4
LaSalle	3	Winnebago	2
Livingston	1	Woodford	1
			<u>101</u>

Weather Conditions

Clear and calm	48
Clear, water choppy	16
Clear and calm (night)	4
Clear, strong current	4
Clear, strong wind	6
Cloudy, calm	2
Cloudy, strong current	5
Rain, storm, wind	6
Rain, calm	1
Unknown	9
	<u>101</u>

101

Age and Hours of Experience
of Boat Operators Involved in Accidents

Age	Less Than 20	20 to 100	100 to 500	Over 500	Experience Unknown	Total
Teenage	3	5	10	3	2	23
20 - 29	2	6	17	4	1	30
30 - 39	1	5	12	9		27
40 - 49		3	7	10		20
50 - 59			4	6	2	12
60 and over			1		1	2
Unknown, or not operated -						22

136

<u>Type of Boat</u>	<u>Horsepower of Motor</u>	Total
Open motorboat	Under 5	1
Cabin motorboat	5 - 10	4
Rowboat	15 - 20	2
Auxiliary Sail	20 - 25	5
Sail (only)	25 - 30	2
Canoe	30 - 35	1
Other -	35 - 40	5
Houseboat	40 and over	86
Pontoon	Unknown	30
Styrofoam inflatable raft		1
Styrofoam swimming pool float		1
Unknown		5
		136

<u>Length of Hull</u>	<u>Lifesaving Devices</u>	Total
Under 12 ft.	None on board	4
12 - 14	On board - used	5
14 - 16	On board - not used	27
16 - 18	Unknown	40
18 - 20		16
20 and over		24
Unknown		20
		136

SKIING ACCIDENTS

There were 11 boating accidents related to water skiing, resulting in 7 injuries:

Two on surfboard, struck by boat, 2 injured
 Boat driven over tow line, skier's hands cut
 5 boats were pulling skiers (inattention of operator and watching skiers,
 collision with other vessels, 1 injury)
 Operator watching skiers, collision with pier
 No observer in boat, skier adjusting skis, pulled over dam, minor injuries
 Skier fell, caused by floating weeds, injured knee
 Hit and run boat hit skier, waiting to be picked up