

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Boating Accident Report - 1972

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

Type, Nature or Classification of Accident

Collision with vessel	32
Capsizing	18
Collision with fixed object	15
Falls overboard	10
Sinking	3
Fire or explosion	3
Boat swamped	2
Collision with floating object	2
Collision with submerged object	2
Grounding	1
Hit bank	1
Struck tow line	1
Struck fence	1
Over the dam	1
Unknown	2
	<u>94</u>

Cause of Accident or Drowning

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



Cause of Accident or Drowning  
(cont.)

Inadequate marking	1
Over the dam	1
Wave action	1
Hit submerged log	1
No safety rail	1 (10 year old)
Overloading	1
Changing positions	1
Flood conditions	1
Mechanical failure	1
Wake from boats	1
Fishing, boat upset	1
Failure to yield	1
Anchor pulled boat under	1
Unmarked dam	1
Flooding	1
Fire	1
Grounding	1
Leaky fuel line	1
Unbalanced boat	1
Unknown	10
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Age and hours of Experience  
of Boat Operators Involved in Accidents

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



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

February	-1	Rivers	-41	Ferson Creek	-1
March	-1	Small Lakes	-17	Shipping Canal	-1
April	-12	Chain O'Lakes	-12	Big Slough	-1
May	-19	Lake Michigan	-11	Powder Horn	-1
June	-15	Carlyle Lake	- 2	Bath Chute	-1
July	-20	Crab Orchard Lake	- 2	Blanding Slough	-1
August	-14	Lake Shelbyville	- 1	Willow Springs	-1
September	-9	Brandon Road Lock	- 1	small bay	-1
October	-1	and Dam			
November	-2				
	<u>94</u>				

<u>Type of Boat</u>	
Open motorboat	72
Cabin motorboat	18
Rowboat	5
Auxiliary	5
Canoe	4
Pontoon	3
Sailboat	3
Jonboat	2
Tugboat	2
Airboat	1
ram	1
Cruiser	1
Raft	1
Barge	1
Unknown	<u>10</u>
	129

<u>Horsepower of Motor</u>	
Under five	16
6 to 10	7
11 to 15	1
16 to 20	3
21 to 25	5
26 to 30	3
31 to 40	7
Over 40	73
Unknown	<u>14</u>
	129

<u>Length of Hull</u>	
Under 12	3
12 to 13	11
14 to 15	30
16 to 17	20
18 to 19	16
20 and over	40
Unknown	<u>9</u>
	129

<u>Lifesaving Devices</u>	
None on board	9
On board; used	26
On board; not used	55
On board; not known if used	9
Unknown or not applicable	<u>30</u>
	129



Counties in which accidents occurred

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

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



## DROWNINGS

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

### Month in which drowning occurred

March	1
April	13
May	7
June	6
July	3
August	1
September	3
November	3
	<u>37</u>

### Lifesaving Devices

No life preservers	11
Preservers not used	16
Preservers used	4
Unknown	6
	<u>37</u>

### Type and Cause of Accident resulting in drowning

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