Oregon Recreational Boating Accident Statistics – 2009

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2009. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding $2,000 must be reported.

Comments on the year…..

In 2009, 13 people died in recreational boating accidents in Oregon.

Three of the 13 victims were wearing their life jackets. It is reasonable to assume that had the other victims worn their life jackets most would have survived their accidents.

Nine of the 13 victims were in open motor boats, the other 4 were in non-powered craft. On average, 35% of our fatalities are in non-motorized boats.

Also something to note is that 7 of 11 operators were over the age of 50, which is unusual.

And as usual the number one type of accident for this year (aside from the unknown) was *Capsizing,* followed by *Collision with Fixed Object.*

Year	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Oregon Fatalities	Fatality Rate Oregon**	U.S. Fatality Rate**	Fatalities U.S.
2000	194,828	100	14	.72	.55	701
2001	194,615	70	14	.72	.53	681
2002	194,582	80	16	.82	.58	750
2003	197,591	74	18	.92	.55	703
2004	190,142	54	9	.42	.53	676
2005	187,640	74	15	.80	.54	697
2006	186,497	66	20	1.07	.56	710
2007	184,147	66	9	.49	.53	685
2008	180,063	60	13	.72	.56	709
2009	180,552	65	13	.72	-	-

(-) Figures not in yet from USCG

* It is estimated that only 10 to 15% of reportable accidents are actually reported.

** Rate per 10,000 registered boats.

(These statistics reflect recreational boaters only)

Analysis of Fatal Boating Accidents – 2009

Activity

Anchoring 0
At Anchor.....................................0
Changing Speed..........................0
Cruising 3
Drifting 0
Fishing* 4
Hunting...0
Paddling 2
Whitewater Sports 0
Unknown 2
*2 deaths same boat (2 different boats)

Type of Accident

Capsizing* 4
Collision w/ Boat.................0
Collision w/ Fixed Object 3
Ejected from Vessel 0
Fall Overboard 0
Flooding/Swamping.............0
Sinking 0
Grounding 0
Unknown 4
*2 deaths same boat (2 different boats)

Cause of Accident

Alcohol... 1
Careless/ Reckless Ops............. 0
Hazardous Waters 3
Improper Anchoring 0
Op. Inexperience/ Error.............. 1
Overloading*.............................. 1
Passenger/ Skier Behavior 0
Restricted Vision........................ 0
Weather Conditions*.................. 2
Other (Epileptic Seizure) 1
Unknown...................................... 2
*2 deaths same boat

Type of Craft

Open Motorboat* 7
Cabin Motorboat..........................0
Inflatable.....................................0
Canoe/ Kayak 3
Personal Watercraft (PWC) 0
Driftboat 0
Sailboat 0
Paddleboard................................1
*2 deaths same boat (2 different boats)

Boat Length

Less than 10'.......................0
10' - 12'...............................4
12' – 14' 1
14' – 16'*..............................2
16' – 18'*..............................2
18' – 20' 1
20'+.......................................1
Unknown...............................0
* 2 deaths same boat

Month

January....................................... 0
February 0
March 0
April 0
May... 1
June 3
July 1
August*....................................... 3
September*................................. 2
October....................................... 2
November 0
December................................... 1
* 2 deaths same boat

Body of Water

River * 7
Lake 1
Ocean*...3
Bay...2
Reservoir.....................................0
*2 deaths same boat

Gender

Male 12
Female.............................. 1

Water Temperature

41° - 51° F..................................3
52° - 61° F*.................................3
62° - 70° F 0
Above 70° F* 3
Unknown 4
*2 deaths same boat

Operator Age

Under 18 0
18 – 25 0
26 – 35 0
36 – 50 4
Over 50*.............................7
*2 deaths same boat (2 different boats)

Personal Floatation Device

Aboard Not Used 7
Not Aboard 0
Used But Not Worn................... 0
Unknown.................................... 3
Aboard and Used...................... 3

Waterways Accidents Occurred

Rivers

Columbia River – Russian Island
Sprague River – Harris Ranch
Columbia River* – 3 Mile Canyon
Rogue River – Savage Rapids Dam
John Day – LePage State Park
Columbia River – Wells Island N.
*2 deaths same boat

Lakes

Lake Billy Chinook –
(Upper Deschutes Day Area)
Lake Owyhee – Indian Creek

Bay

Nehalem Bay – Wheeler
Netarts Bay – Happy Camp

Ocean

Pacific Ocean – N. of Del Rey Beach
Pacific Ocean* – Newport Beach
*2 deaths same boat