



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 1996

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 1996. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$500 must be reported.

Comments on the year...

In 1996, 8 people died in Oregon recreational boating accidents, down 56% from 1995. It was the second safest year on record; only 1990 had fewer fatalities, with 7. The total number of accidents for 1996 was 115, down 20% from 1995.

There were no fatalities involving personal watercraft (PWC) in 1996. However, the total number of PWC accidents matched 1995's record high of 24.

Of the eight fatalities, seven were not wearing life jackets. Six of these seven had life jackets aboard but did not use them.

Alcohol played a small role in 1996's fatalities. Six of the eight victims were tested, and none showed signs of alcohol in their system. However, the operators involved in one of the fatalities tested positive for alcohol.

All but one of the fatalities involved a boat under 16 feet in length. Small craft are less stable than larger vessels, and tend to capsize more easily.

Six of eight fatalities occurred on lakes in 1996. Normally the majority of fatalities occur on rivers and the ocean. This year, however, there were no fatalities on the ocean.

In 4 of 7 years this decade, the Oregon fatality rate has been lower than the U.S. fatality rate. Usually, the Oregon fatality rate is higher due to the variety of waterways, longer boating season and generally colder water.

	<u>Registered Boats</u>	<u>Accidents*</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Oregon Fatality Rate**</u>	<u>U.S. Fatality Rate**</u>
1987	153,087	101	28	1.83	1.04
1988	160,000	115	24	1.50	.91
1989	165,771	81	16	.97	.83
1990	173,572	107	7	.35	.79
1991	177,134	110	22	1.24	.83
1992	180,138	94	9	.50	.74
1993	184,007	85	25	1.36	.71
1994	188,792	121	10	.53	.69
1995	191,915	144	18	.94	.71
1996	195,080	115	8	.41	.59

*It is estimated that only 10 to 15 percent of reportable accidents are actually reported
**Rate per 10,000 registered boats

ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 1996

ACTIVITY

Approaching dock.....2
 Cruising.....1
 Fishing.....2
 Paddling.....1
 Swimming.....1
 Being towed.....1

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing.....3
 Collision w/ fxd Object..3
 Collision w/ Boat.....1
 Unknown.....1

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Hazardous Waters.....1
 Improper Loading.....1
 No Proper Lookout.....1
 Operator Error.....2
 Reckless Operation.....1
 Weather Conditions.....1
 Unknown.....1

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor..... 5
 Cabin Motor..... 1
 Inflatable..... 1
 Canoe/Kayak..... 0
 Pers. Watercraft..... 0
 Driftboat..... 1
 Sailboat..... 0

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10'..... 1
 10' to 12'..... 1
 12' to 14'..... 2
 14' to 16'..... 3
 16' to 18'..... 0
 18' to 20'..... 0
 20'+..... 1
 Unknown..... 0

MONTH

January..... 0
 February..... 0
 March..... 1
 April..... 0
 May..... 3
 June..... 1
 July..... 3
 August..... 0
 September..... 0
 October..... 0
 November..... 0
 December..... 0

BODY OF WATER

River..... 2
 Lake..... 6
 Ocean..... 0
 Bay..... 0

SEX

Male..... 5
 Female..... 3

WATER TEMP

40 and Below..... 1
 41 to 50 F..... 1
 51 to 60 F..... 2
 61 to 70 F..... 3
 Above 70 F..... 0
 Unknown..... 1

PERSONAL

FLOTATION DEVICES

Aboard Not Used..... 6
 Not Aboard..... 1
 Aboard and Used..... 1
 Unknown..... 0

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18..... 0
 18 to 25..... 0
 26 to 35..... 2
 36 to 50..... 5
 Over 50..... 1

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

RIVERS

Sandy R., Dodge Park
 Umpqua R., below
 Glide

OCEAN

BAYS

LAKES

Fern Ridge Reservoir
 Klamath Lake
 Lemolo Lake
 Ochoco Reservoir
 Thief Valley Reservoir
 Wickiup Reservoir