



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 1999

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 1999. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$500 must be reported.

Comments on the year...

There were 96 reported recreational boating accidents in 1999. Sixteen people died in boating accidents, a decrease from 1997 and 1998, and just above the average of 15.4 for the 1990's.

Of the 16 victims, only 2 were wearing life jackets. Of those who were not wearing their life jackets, 12 had them on board the boat. Accidents can happen unexpectedly, and many boaters are not able to put a life jacket on once the accident has occurred.

After peaking at a high of 34 in 1997, accidents involving personal watercraft (PWC) have fallen off the last two years. In 1999, 21 PWC accidents were reported including one fatality.

Thirteen of sixteen fatalities, or 81%, occurred on rivers in 1999. Although rivers are usually the most common location for fatalities, this percentage is unusually high. The average for the previous eight years is 48%. Fast currents, high seasonal flows, cold water temperatures and hazards such as snags and strainers make Oregon's rivers especially dangerous.

All but one of 1999's fatalities occurred in water 60° F or less and over half in water 50° or less. Due to snow melt and cold ocean currents, most Oregon waterways remain cold year round. Therefore, boaters involved in accidents are often exposed to the risk of hypothermia. Disorientation and numbness can decrease the chance for self rescue. In 40-50° water, unconsciousness can occur in 30-60 minutes. Boaters are encouraged to dress according to water temperatures and wear their life jackets.

	<u>Registered Boats</u>	<u>Accidents*</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Oregon Fatality Rate**</u>	<u>U.S. Fatality Rate**</u>
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
1997	197,315	123	19	.96	.67
1998	197,634	120	20	1.01	.65
1999	196,102	96	16	.82	.58

*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 - 1999

ACTIVITY

Cruising 7
 Drifting 6
 Paddling 3

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing 8
 Collision w/vessel 1
 Collision w/fxd object . 5
 Flooding 2

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Hazardous Waters ... 9
 Mechanical Problem . 1
 No PFD 1
 Operator Error 1
 Operator Inexperience 3
 Reckless Operation .. 1

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor 6
 Cabin Motor 2
 Inflatable 2
 Canoe/Kayak 3
 Pers. Watercraft ... 1
 Driftboat 1
 Sailboat 1

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10' 3
 10' to 12' 1
 12' to 14' 0
 14' to 16' 3
 16' to 18' 1
 18' to 20' 1
 20'+ 6
 Unknown 1

MONTH

January 3
 February 2
 March 1
 April 0
 May 1
 June 2
 July 2
 August 2
 September 0
 October 2
 November 0
 December 1

BODY OF WATER

River 13
 Lake 1
 Ocean 2
 Bay 0

SEX

Male 14
 Female 2

PERSONAL

FLOTATION DEVICES

Aboard Not Used 12
 Not Aboard 2
 Aboard and Used 2

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18 1
 18 to 25 1
 26 to 35 4
 36 to 50 7
 Over 50 3

WATER TEMP

40 and Below 2
 41 to 50 F 7
 51 to 60 F 6
 61 to 70 F 1
 Above 70 F 0

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

RIVERS

Bull Run R., Dodge Pk.
 Columbia R., Astoria*
 Little Deschutes R.
 N. Umpqua R., Red's
 Beach
 Rogue R., Cole M.
 Rivers Hatchery
 Rogue R., Whitehorse
 Pk.*

RIVERS-CONT.

S. Santiam R., Gill's
 Landing
 Willamette R., Bowman
 Pk.
 Willamette R., Hayes
 Lane
 Willamette R., Willamette
 Falls*

OCEAN

Coquille River Bar
 Nestucca River Bar

LAKES

Waldo Lake

*Two Died