

## Preliminary 2019 Minnesota Boating Accident and Drowning Summary

Prepared by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Boat and Water Safety  
as of 5/12/19

### Summary of Accidents – as of 5/12 each year

Accident Category and Year	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Boating Fatalities	1	1	3	3	2	1	0	3	0	1
Non-Fatal Boating Accidents	3	1	5	3	4	4	3	4	3	4
Non-Boating Drownings	2	4	8	9	8	6	9	10	7	3

There is usually a delay in the reporting of non-fatal accidents.

### Summary of Accidents for the Entire Year – January - December

Accident Category and Year	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Boating Fatalities	14	12	18	18	14	12	15	16	12	15
Non-Fatal Boating Accidents	66	92	79	71	36	65	72	61	71	70
Non-Boating Drownings	39	31	40	35	29	30	40	50	34	28

### 2019 Statewide Summary – as of 5/12/19

#### Boating Fatalities

- 5/12 – Becker Co. – Island Lake – A 61-year-old Sauk Rapids man died after apparently falling overboard from his motorboat. About 11:15 a.m., witnesses saw a person in the water trying to grab the circling boat. When rescuers reached him, he was unresponsive. CPR was started and was continued when emergency personnel arrived. He was transported by air to a Fargo hospital, where he later died. *(Life jacket worn – unk.) Have not yet received an accident report – information may change.*

\*4/19 – Pine Co. – Cross Lake – A MN DNR conservation officer (CO) from Pine City drowned after being thrown overboard while searching for a possible body in the water at about 8:25 p.m. He and a Pine County sheriff's deputy had just left the boat launch in the CO's jet boat and were heading to the area when they were thrown from the boat as it made a sharp left turn. They started swimming to shore. Other deputies on shore found a boat and headed out to help the officers in the water. They reached the deputy and got him from the water but the CO had gone under before they got to him. A search was started and his body was recovered about 1:35 a.m. the following day. *(Life jacket worn – no) This was not a recreational boating fatality and therefore will not be counted by the U.S. Coast Guard.*

#### Non-Fatal Boating Accidents

Type of Accident	Number
Capsizing	1
Collision with a fixed or floating object	0
Collision with another watercraft	0

Type of Accident	Number
Collision with an underwater object	0
Collision with swimmer or person in water	0
Fall in boat	0
Falls overboard	1
Fire/Explosion	0
Grounding, Hitting Bottom	0
Struck by Propeller	0
Sinking / Flooding / Swamping	1
Water-skiing, wake boarding or tubing mishap	0
Other	0
Total reportable non-fatal boating accidents as of 5/12/19	3

Notes:

1. Reportable non-fatal boating accidents are those where there was at least \$2000 in property damage, an injury beyond first aid or total loss of the boat.
2. There is usually a delay in the reporting of non-fatal boating accidents.

*Non-Boating Drownings*

1. 3/9 – Washington Co. – residential hot tub – A 55-year-old Minneapolis woman drowned in a residential hot tub. She was with friends in the hot tub the previous evening (3/8/19). They all got out of the hot tub to go in the house and go to bed. The following morning, the woman was found in the hot tub, deceased.
2. 3/21 – Blue Earth Co. – private drainage ditch – A 92-year-old Amboy man drowned while apparently chipping ice in a culvert. It is believed that when the ice was chipped away, water started rushing through the culvert and washed the man into the drainage ditch. His body was recovered approximately two miles downstream on 3/26.