

Preliminary 2024 Minnesota Boating Incident and Drowning Summary

Prepared by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Boat and Water Safety as of 4/30/2024

Summary of Incidents – as of 4/30 each year

Incident Category and Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Boating Fatalities	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	3	2	1
Non-Fatal Boating Incidents	2	0	3	3	4	2	1	4	2	0
Non-Boating Drownings	4	10	1	6	8	5	4	8	7	7

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

Summary of Incidents for the Entire Year – January - December

Incident Category and Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Boating Fatalities	9	15	18	16	10	14	12	18	18	14
Non-Fatal Boating Incidents	59	76	69	89	90	64	92	79	71	36
Non-Boating Drownings	48	30	53	49	35	40	31	40	35	29

2024 Statewide Summary – as of 4/30/2024

Boating Fatalities

- 4/15 – Cottonwood Co. – Eagle Lake – A 15-year-old Mountain Lake boy drowned after jumping into the lake, about 6:45 p.m., from the 13-foot canoe he was paddling. He was trying to retrieve the oar that had dropped into the water. The wind pushed the canoe away and he was unable to get back into it. He started to swim to shore and the passenger in the canoe lost sight of him. His body was recovered from 4 ½-feet of water at 11:25 a.m. on 4/17/2024. (*Life jacket: worn – no, on board – no*)

Non-Fatal Boating Incidents

Type of Incident	Number
Capsizing	0
Collision with a fixed object (including boats moored to a dock, pier, or similar structure)	1
Collision with floating object (above or below the water; other than another boat)	0
Collision with another watercraft	0
Grounding, Hitting Bottom	0
Person struck by boat (either inside or outside of boat)	0
Person impacts boat – (slips, trips, falls, or strikes surface on or in a boat)	0

Type of Incident	Number
Falls overboard	0
Person ejected from boat	0
Person departs boat voluntarily (resulting in injury)	0
Fire/Explosion	1
Electrical Shock – from boat or its equipment	0
Struck by Propeller/Propulsion Unit/Water Jet	0
Sinking	0
Flooding	0
Swamping	0
Towed Watersport mishap	0
Carbon Monoxide exposure	0
Natural phenomena	0
Other	0
Total reportable non-fatal boating incidents as of 4/30/2024	2

Notes:

1. Reportable non-fatal boating incidents 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 incidents.

Non-Boating Drownings

1. 1/5 – Cass Co. – Pike Bay – An 82-year-old Bemidji man drowned when the ATV he was driving, with a passenger on board, broke through the ice. He was checking the ice near a heave, at about 11:15 a.m., when the ATV broke through, putting both men in the water. Nearby witnesses pulled the man from the water and started lifesaving efforts. Deputies arrived and continued lifesaving measures. He was transported by airboat to an ambulance, and was taken to the hospital, where he later died. The passenger was treated on scene. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
2. 1/19 – Hennepin Co. – Lake of the Isles – A 40-year-old Wadena man drowned in the channel between Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska. His body was found frozen in the ice. It is unknown how he came to be in the water, or how long he had been there. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
3. 2/14 – Hennepin Co. – Lake Independence – A 72-year-old Brooklyn Park man drowned after breaking through the ice while out ice fishing. His wife called authorities at 10:30 p.m. when he hadn't returned home. Deputies went to the lake and used an airboat to search. The man's ATV was found stopped, but still running, on the ice near a pressure ridge. As they approached the ATV, the ice started breaking. The man's body was found in the water and was recovered at 4:30 a.m. on 2/15. It is unknown when he broke through the ice and went into the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
4. 3/3 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – A 75-year-old St. Paul woman drowned while taking a bath. She lived alone. Her nephew hadn't heard from her in a while and her minister called to tell him that she hadn't attended church that day. The nephew called authorities to check on her. She was found deceased in the tub with the water running. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*

There are also water incidents pending – waiting for incident reports or confirmation of drowning to be submitted.