

## Preliminary 2024 Minnesota Boating Incident and Drowning Summary

Prepared by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Boat and Water Safety  
as of 12/31/2024

### Summary of Incidents – as of 12/31 each year

Incident Category and Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Boating Fatalities	9	9	15	18	16	10	14	12	18	18
Non-Fatal Boating Incidents	53	59	76	69	89	90	64	92	79	71
Non-Boating Drownings	46	48	30	53	49	35	40	31	40	35

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 12/31/2024

#### 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)*
- 5/11 or 5/12 – Kandiyohi Co. – Nest Lake – A 39-year-old Overland Park, KS man drowned while on the lake to watch the northern lights. He had last been seen about 11:30 p.m. on 5/11, attempting to take a 9-foot, 9-inch kayak out on the water. He was reported missing on 5/12. A search was begun, and the kayak was found early in the afternoon on 5/12. The man's body was located and recovered the morning of 5/14. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – no)*
- 5/18 – St. Louis Co. – Iron Lake – A 41-year-old Cambridge man was missing after the 20-foot canoe he and another man were fishing from drifted too close to Curtain Falls, from the Crooked Lake side of the falls, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). The canoe capsized, as it went over the falls with the other man on board, putting the victim on a rock at the top of the falls and injuring the man still in the canoe. Another canoe from the group came over to help the victim on the rocks and told him to swim to them. He was able to grab on to the other canoe as it was pushed over the waterfall by the current. His body was recovered from Iron Lake on 5/31/2024 at 10:00 a.m. The injured man from this canoe was rescued by helicopter on 5/19/2024. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes)*

4. 5/18 – St. Louis Co. – Iron Lake – A 40-year-old Lino Lakes man was missing after the 18 ½-foot canoe he and another man were in was swept over Curtain Falls in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). They were attempting to rescue their friend who had become stranded on a rock at the top of the falls when his canoe was swept over. The man they were rescuing had grabbed on to their canoe just before it was swept over the falls by the current. The body of the missing man from this canoe was recovered from Iron Lake on 6/3/2024 at 10:12 a.m. The injured man from this canoe was rescued by helicopter on 5/19/2024. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes)*
5. 5/26 – Lake Co. – White Iron Lake – A 54-year-old St. Louis, MO man drowned after somehow coming to be in the lake. He was found face-down in the water near an unoccupied 16-foot boat that was unsecured at the shoreline. The incident was unwitnessed, but it is thought the man had somehow fallen from the boat. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes, but not accessible)*
6. 7/13 – Clearwater Co. – Long Lost Lake – A 70-year-old Ponsford woman drowned while swimming, with the boat operator, from an unanchored 20-foot pontoon boat. The boat started to drift away from them, and the operator swam toward the boat. He turned around and saw the woman face-down, floating in the water. He called for help. Bystanders heard, called 911 and took a boat out to them. CPR was performed but was eventually discontinued. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes)*
7. 8/10 – Otter Tail Co. – Otter Tail Lake – A 63-year-old Fergus Falls man drowned after falling overboard from his moving 20-foot pontoon boat at about 2:35 p.m. His hat had blown off and he was reaching out for it when he fell into the water and disappeared. Another occupant on the boat attempted to jump in to get to him, but the boat drifted away. Another nearby watercraft was able to get the man onto their boat and County Water Patrol arrived to perform lifesaving measures, but the man was pronounced deceased on scene. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes)*
8. 8/24 – Aitkin Co. – Wolf Lake – A 20-year-old St. Paul man drowned when the 17-foot canoe he and another man were paddling, at 8:59 p.m., capsized. It was dark and they had no experience. The man stood up in the canoe, lost his balance and the canoe tipped, putting both men in the water. They attempted to swim to shore and the man started to struggle then went under. The other man was able to get to shore and call for help. There was one life jacket on board the canoe, but neither man had been wearing one. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes, but only one)*
9. 10/17 – Otter Tail Co. – North Turtle Lake – A 76-year-old St. Paul man drowned while duck hunting in a 14-foot motorboat. He had been reported overdue from a hunting and fishing trip. While authorities were looking for him, they received a report of a capsized boat. They located the partially overturned water-filled boat and found the man's body floating in the lake, tangled in the anchor line and decoy strings. He was not wearing a life jacket, and none were found. He had been seen the previous morning in the same location setting up for hunting. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – no)*

#### Non-Fatal Boating Incidents

Type of Incident	Number
Capsizing	4
Collision with a fixed object (including boats moored to a dock, pier, or similar structure)	10
Collision with floating object (above or below the water; other than another boat)	0
Collision with another watercraft	12
Grounding, Hitting Bottom	1
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)	3
Falls overboard	2
Person ejected from boat	4
Person departs boat voluntarily (resulting in injury)	1

Type of Incident	Number
Fire/Explosion	3
Electrical Shock – from boat or its equipment	0
Struck by Propeller/Propulsion Unit/Water Jet	0
Sinking	1
Flooding	2
Swamping	3
Towed Watersport mishap	7
Carbon Monoxide exposure	0
Natural phenomena	0
Other	0
Total reportable non-fatal boating incidents as of 12/31/2024	53

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. 1/12 – Mille Lacs Co. – Mille Lacs Lake – An 80-year-old Bruno man drowned after his truck broke through 6-inches of ice at about 10:50 a.m. He had been wearing a life jacket and floated to the surface under the ice. A witness was able to get him from the water and transported to an ambulance on shore where lifesaving measures were begun. He was transported to the hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
3. 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)*
4. 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)*
5. 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)*
6. 3/9 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – A 35-year-old Minneapolis man drowned after somehow entering the river. His body was found floating near shore in St. Paul. It is unknown when or where he entered the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*

7. 3/29 – Hennepin Co. – Minnehaha Creek – A 48-year-old man drowned after somehow entering the creek. His body was seen floating face-down in the creek by a person walking. There were no nearby footprints in the snow. It is unknown where, when, or how the man had entered the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
8. 4/11 – Hennepin Co. – unnamed pond – An 18-year-old Maple Grove man drowned in an unnamed pond in Maple Grove. His body was found floating about 30-feet from shore. It is unknown when, where or how the man had entered the pond. He had been missing for about 3 weeks. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
9. 5/3 – Waseca Co. – Clear Lake – A 65-year-old Waseca man drowned while fishing in the lake. His wife had been unable to contact him and called authorities just after 10:30 p.m. He was found floating in the water wearing chest waders, about 6 feet from shore, about an hour later. It is unknown how long he had been in the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
10. 5/5 – Hennepin Co. – Bde Maka Ska – A 23-year-old St. Paul man drowned at about 5:25 p.m. He had been swimming out to some buoys near the beach when he started to struggle, yelled for help, and went under the water. Two men saw him struggling and took a kayak out to him. They were able to get the man to shore and CPR was started. He was taken to the hospital, where he died 4 days later. *(Swimming ability – swimmer)*
11. 5/10 – Hennepin Co. – neighborhood pond – A 19-month-old Brooklyn Center boy drowned after somehow entering the pond. A neighbor who was sitting outside heard a disturbance in the pond. He went to check it out and bystanders asked for help getting the child out of the water. CPR was given until paramedics arrived on scene. The child was transported to the hospital, and later died. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
12. 5/10 – St. Louis Co. – Lake Agnes – A 62-year-old Duluth man drowned while in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. He was found on the shore, partially submerged in the water with a backpack on one shoulder and a life jacket clutched in his hand. A canoe was found on shore about 250 yards away. It is unknown how he came to be in the water, but it is not thought that he had fallen from the canoe. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
13. 5/12 – Lake Co. – Baptism River – A 31-year-old Finland man drowned while in the river. He hadn't been seen by family and friends since 4/13. His body was found in the river on 5/12 and his clothes were found upstream near the water's edge. It is unknown when or how he entered the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
14. 5/12 – Brown Co. – Mound Creek Park – A 15-year-old Mountain Lake boy was jumping off a rock into the water at about 3:00 p.m. After several jumps he began swimming to the beach. While swimming, he yelled something and then went under the water and didn't resurface. He was recovered from 7-feet of water just over an hour later. Lifesaving measures were performed but were unsuccessful. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
15. 5/21 – Dakota Co. – Lac Lavon Lake – An 18-year-old Plymouth man drowned while employed as a scuba diver to remove aquatic weeds from the lake. It was his first day and he was inexperienced. He was with other divers in about 10-feet of water. The other divers surfaced, but the victim did not. They searched and found him on the bottom of the lake. He was removed from the water and CPR was started. He was transported to the hospital where he later died. *(Swimming ability – swimmer)*
16. 5/25 – Washington Co. – St. Croix River – A 71-year-old Marine on St. Croix man drowned after somehow coming to be in the water. A neighbor heard cries for help at about 6:00 p.m. when she went out to investigate why her dogs were barking. She saw the victim struggling in the water. She called 911 while her husband jumped in to get the man out of the water. He then performed chest compressions until authorities arrived. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*

17. 5/29 – Lyon Co. – Redwood River – A 4-year-old Marshall boy drowned after wandering away from his house while playing outside. He was reported missing at 4:45 p.m. and was found in the river at 5:26 p.m. Lifesaving measures were started, and he was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
18. 5/30 – Hubbard Co. – 8th Crow Wing Lake – A 75-year-old Bismarck, ND man drowned after falling from the dock while fishing. His son had gone into the cabin for several minutes and when he came back at 5:57 p.m., he found his father in the water. He got his father to shore and kept his head out of the water until first responders arrived. Lifesaving measures were begun by ambulance staff but were unsuccessful. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
19. 6/1 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – A 41-year-old St. Paul man drowned while in the bathtub at his residence. His girlfriend said he was getting in the shower when she left the apartment at 9:00 that morning. When she came home at 3:30 that afternoon, she heard the shower running and discovered the man lying in the tub deceased, with the water over his head. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
20. 6/6 – Hennepin Co. – apartment building pool – A 5-year-old Edina boy drowned after dropping his stuffed animal in the pool just after 5:30 p.m. He was trying to get it out of the water when he began to struggle. A woman in the pool area saw him motionless in the water and pulled him out. She performed CPR until authorities arrived. He was transported to the hospital where he died days later. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
21. 6/9 – Hennepin Co. – Minnehaha Creek – A 4-year-old Hopkins boy drowned after he left his family's apartment on his own. He was reported missing from the apartment complex and had last been seen about 7:30 a.m. Authorities were called, and a search was started. The boy's body was found in the creek about 10:40 the following morning. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
22. 6/11 – Anoka Co. – unnamed pond – A 62-year-old Fridley man drowned after somehow entering the pond near his mother's apartment building. She had last had contact with him on the 10th and couldn't locate him on the 11th. A resident saw something floating in the pond on the 13th and the object was still there the following day. Authorities were called and they recovered the man's body from the water. It is unknown how he came to be in the pond. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
23. 6/20 – Washington Co. – residential pool – A 3-year-old Cottage Grove girl drowned after somehow falling into the backyard pool. She was found by family and neighbors face-down in about 10-feet of water. CPR was started and was continued when emergency personnel arrived. She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
24. 6/26 – Hennepin Co. – apartment building outdoor pool – A 39-year-old Crystal man drowned in the pool at his apartment building at about 5:40 p.m. He had been sitting on the edge of the pool and then entered the water and headed toward the deep end of the pool. A while later, a woman saw him lying on the bottom of the pool and she and others at the pool were able to get him out of the water. CPR was performed until authorities arrived and took over. He was transported to the hospital where he was declared deceased a short time later. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
25. 6/28 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – A 26-year-old Maplewood woman drowned while in the river. Her body was seen floating down the river and was recovered about 11:45 a.m. It is unknown how, when or why she had entered the river. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
26. 6/29 – Hennepin Co. – rest area holding pond – A 48-year-old New Hope woman drowned in a holding pond at a rest area in Maple Grove. Authorities received a report of a body that was floating in the water. A deputy swam out in the pond to recover the woman's body from 6-feet of water. She had been reported missing on 6/19/2024. It is unknown how and when she had entered the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
27. 6/30 – St. Louis Co. – Crane Lake – A 50-year-old Embarrass man drowned while scuba diving in 65-feet of water to retrieve a piece of equipment that had fallen off a barge. He was diving with a partner, who

had to resurface because of diving equipment issues. The victim was able to dive down to attach a rope to the piece they were retrieving, pulled to signal that it was attached, and a chain was lowered. After 20-30 minutes, people on the surface noticed there were no air bubbles, and they hadn't seen the diver resurface. They pulled the rope and found it was cut in half. The first diver went down and found the victim without his respirator on, and the rope tangled around his air tank. The diver resurfaced with the victim and CPR was started. He was taken by ambulance to air medical but was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*

28. 7/3 – Washington Co. – St. Croix River – A 26-year-old Minneapolis man drowned while swimming at the Afton State Park picnic area beach at about 9:20 a.m. He went out about 35 feet from shore and then began yelling for help. His friend tried to get out to help him but couldn't make it that far. The friend tried encouraging him back to shore, but then lost sight of him shortly after that. The man was located by authorities about 11:00 a.m. in 20-feet of water. He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – swimmer)*
29. 7/7 – Ramsey Co. – apartment bathtub – A 29-year-old St. Paul woman drowned while taking a bath. She had been in there about 20 minutes when her mother checked on her and she did not respond. The mother broke the door and found the woman face-down in about 7-inches of water. She was not breathing when removed from the water. 911 was called and lifesaving measures were performed but were not successful. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
30. 7/9 – Stearns Co. – Quarry #11 (Quarry Park) – A 17-year-old Brooklyn Center boy drowned after jumping into the quarry from a 10-foot cliff at about 4:20 p.m. He did not resurface. Bystanders attempted to find him in the water but were unsuccessful. Authorities put boats in the water and located him in 31-feet of water at 8:40 p.m. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
31. 7/12 – Sherburne Co. – Mississippi River – A 41-year-old Elk River man drowned while saving his two children. They had been swimming near a sandbar around 11:40 a.m. when the children began to struggle in the water. He was able to get one of the kids to safety on the sandbar and went back for the other one. He pushed that child toward shore and then disappeared under the water. His body was recovered at 9:40 a.m. on 7/14. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
32. 7/13 – Dakota Co. – Lake Marion – A 26-year-old Faribault man drowned at about 5:30 p.m. while swimming with a friend. They were at the park beach and both men were struggling to swim. A witness on the beach saw them struggling and called 911. One swimmer was rescued prior to the arrival of first responders. The other man was witnessed going under and did not resurface. He was recovered about 2 1/2 hours later. The men had been swimming outside the roped-off swim area when the incident occurred. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
33. 7/14 – Clearwater Co. – residential pool – A 2-year-old Bagley boy drowned after falling into a swimming pool. He and his family were in the yard working when he wandered away to the above-ground swimming pool. He was noticed missing and was located unresponsive in the pool about 10 minutes after he had last been seen. CPR was begun and he was taken to the hospital where he died a few days later. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
34. 7/28 – Hennepin Co. – apartment building swimming pool – A 29-year-old Maple Grove man drowned while alone in the outdoor pool at about 8:40 p.m. He was found on the bottom near the deep end by the caretaker at about 9:15 p.m. Lifesaving measures were begun, and authorities were called. He could not be revived. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
35. 8/12 – Rice Co. – Kelly Lake – A 90-year-old Northfield man drowned while swimming. His vehicle had been reported to authorities because it had been parked at the public access overnight. The owner of the vehicle was known to often snorkel in the lake. His body was found floating in the water about 100 yards east/northeast of the public access. The man had probably entered the water the previous evening. *(Swimming ability – swimmer)*

36. 8/17 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – A 54-year-old St. Paul man drowned while in his bathtub. His friend had come to his apartment to take him to the doctor, and he didn't answer the door. She tried again later, with the building manager, to check on his welfare and found him deceased, face-first in the water with the shower running. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
37. 8/20 – Beltrami Co. – Kitchi Lake – A 30-year-old St. Joseph man drowned after diving headfirst off the end of a dock when his nephews wanted to swim out to a water trampoline. He floated to the surface face-down and then slowly sank. The children called for other family members who came and removed the man from the water and started CPR. The water at the end of the dock was 3 1/2 feet deep, and he sustained a neck injury causing him to drown. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
38. 8/26 – Cass Co. – Pine River – A 53-year-old Pine River man drowned while swimming in the river. His clothing was found on the dock in front of the residence. The man couldn't be located around the area. The weather cleared and eventually something was seen in the water about 50-feet out from shore. A kayak was taken out and it was found to be the man. He was brought to shore and was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
39. 8/31 – Anoka Co. – Kings Island Pond – A 27-year-old Anoka man drowned in a pond by the Mississippi River. He was hot and had gone into the water to cool off. He began to struggle in the water and his uncle tried to rescue him, but he also began to struggle and went back to shore. The man went under the water and the uncle called 911. A diver from the county marine unit dove in and found the man on the bottom of the pond. He was removed from the water and lifesaving efforts were started. He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – non-swimmer)*
40. 9/4 – Hennepin Co. – apartment building indoor pool – A 13-year-old New Hope boy drowned while swimming in the pool at his apartment building. He was seen jumping into the deep end of the pool. He didn't come back up right away and other kids in the area thought he was swimming underwater. They started to worry when he didn't come back up, saw him on the bottom and then tried to get to him, but the water was too deep. Another man was able to get him from the water and start CPR. 911 was called and he was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
41. 9/16 – Anoka Co. – Rum River – A 47-year-old man drowned while trying to swim across the river just after 4:00 p.m. He was fleeing from law enforcement and entered the river and began to swim. Officers on both sides of the river threw ropes and rescue discs to him but he refused to grab them. A watercraft was launched, and the man went under water. A scuba system was used to enter the water to attempt a rescue. The man was located about 6 minutes after he submerged. CPR was begun immediately but was not successful. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
42. 9/21 – Goodhue Co. – golf course pond – A 33-year-old Red Wing man drowned while working at the golf course. He was using a piece of equipment, which apparently rolled down the hill and into the pond. He was found lying on the bottom of the pond on his back, partially under the machine. CPR was given but was unsuccessful. He had been in the water about 20 minutes. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
43. 10/13 – Clay Co. – Red River – A 24-year-old man drowned after somehow entering the river. His body was found deceased in the water. It is unknown when, where or how he came to be in the river. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
44. 10/20 – Hennepin Co. – unnamed pond – An 11-year-old Eden Prairie boy drowned in a pond near his house. He was reported missing just after 5:30 p.m. and a search of the area was started. His mother said he had an interest in the pond. An ROV (drone) was used to locate the boy in the water. His body was recovered at about 10:15 p.m. It is unknown what time he entered the water. *(Swimming ability – unknown)*
45. 12/2 – Washington Co. – Markgrafs Lake – A 16-year-old Woodbury boy drowned after falling through 2 inches of ice on the lake. He was with friends, and they were walking across the ice toward open water when he fell through. His friend attempted to help him, and she fell through also. Another friend ran to a nearby residence and asked for help. Rescue personnel arrived and removed the girl from the water

and treated her. The boy was still underwater and after a search, was recovered by rescue divers. He was taken to the hospital, where he later died.

46. 12/9 – Cass Co. – Blackwater Lake – An 18-year-old Brainerd man drowned after the ATV he and a friend were on broke through the ice at about 6:00 p.m. They were able to call 911 and family. The friend was rescued by Responders when they arrived. A search was started for the victim and was continued the following day. He was found on the lake bottom in 34 feet of water just before 1:00 p.m. The ice measured 1-2 inches thick in the area at the time of the incident. (*Swimming ability – unknown*)

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