

Preliminary 2025 Minnesota Boating Incident and Drowning Summary

Prepared by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Boat and Water Safety
as of 9/15/2025

Summary of Incidents – as of 9/15 each year

Incident Category and Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Boating Fatalities	5	8	9	14	18	13	10	13	11	14
Non-Fatal Boating Incidents	29	46	53	73	63	83	84	58	87	73
Non-Boating Drownings	13	41	42	23	50	42	29	32	23	34

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	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	50	59	76	69	89	90	64	92	79	71
Non-Boating Drownings	49	48	30	53	49	35	40	31	40	35

2025 Statewide Summary – as of 9/15/2025

Boating Fatalities

- 5/10 – St. Louis Co. – Iron Lake – A 62-year-old St. Louis Park man died after his 16 ½-foot canoe capsized in cold water. He was found floating about 2:16 p.m. near his capsized canoe near Curtain Falls. It is unknown what caused the canoe to capsize, or how long he had been in the water. (*Life jacket: worn – yes, on board – yes*)
- 6/21 – Mille Lacs Co. – Mille Lacs Lake – A 45-year-old Blaine woman died after falling out of the 20 ½-foot motorboat she was a passenger on. The boat was being maneuvered into a dock slip when she fell from the craft and was struck by the boat’s propeller at about 10:00 p.m. She was transported to the hospital where she passed away. (*Life jacket: worn – no, on board – unknown*)
- 6/22 – Washington Co. – White Bear Lake – A 40-year-old Woodbury woman drowned after she entered the water from the drifting 23-foot pontoon boat she was a passenger on. She was separated from the boat by the wind. She went under the water and didn’t resurface. Authorities found her and got her from the water about 2:30 p.m. She was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. She had been under water about 40 minutes. (*Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes*)
- 8/9 – Cass Co. – Cass Lake – A 41-year-old Grafton, ND man drowned after he left his unanchored 20-foot pontoon boat to fix some motor problems. He was not wearing a life jacket. The boat started to drift away from him. His kids were on board and threw a life jacket toward him, but he couldn’t retrieve it. He went underwater. The boat continued to drift, and the kids were able to call for help. The man’s

body was recovered from almost 6 feet of water about 2 hours later. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes)*

5. 8/12 – St. Louis Co. – Shannon Lake – A 75-year-old Chisholm man drowned after his 17-foot canoe apparently capsized on the lake. He had gone out to scout wild rice at about 8:00 a.m. Authorities received a report of an overturned canoe with a man partially inside at about 3:30 p.m. It is unknown what caused the canoe to capsize. *(Life jacket: worn – no, on board – yes)*

Non-Fatal Boating Incidents

Type of Incident	Number
Capsizing	1
Collision with a fixed object (including boats moored to a dock, pier, or similar structure)	4
Collision with floating object (above or below the water; other than another boat)	0
Collision with another watercraft	6
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)	6
Falls overboard	1
Person ejected from boat	1
Person departs boat voluntarily (resulting in injury)	1
Fire/Explosion	1
Electrical Shock – from boat or its equipment	0
Struck by Propeller/Propulsion Unit/Water Jet	2
Sinking	0
Flooding	0
Swamping	0
Towed Watersport mishap	6
Carbon Monoxide exposure	0
Natural phenomena	0
Other	0
Total reportable non-fatal boating incidents as of 9/15/2025	29

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. 1/13 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – A 30-year-old White Bear Lake man drowned while in the bathtub. His girlfriend had not heard from him, and she contacted the apartment manager to check on him. He was found deceased in the tub with the water running. *(Swimming ability – Unknown)*
2. 2/4 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – A 75-year-old St. Paul woman drowned while in the bathtub. She was found by her neighbors who were concerned when the woman missed a co-op meeting that morning, and they were unable to contact her by phone. *(Swimming ability - Unknown)*
3. 3/2 – Big Stone Co. – Big Stone Lake – A 62-year-old Big Stone City man drowned when the truck he was driving on the lake either went through very thin ice or drove into open water. The truck submerged and

stayed upright, but upon reaching the bottom of the lake, the man was trapped inside, and he drowned. *(Swimming ability - Unknown)*

4. 3/5 – Rice Co. – Cannon Lake – A 56-year-old Faribault man drowned after he drove his ATV into an open pool of water on the lake. He had gone fishing on 3/4/2025 and didn't return home. His family went out to look for him the following morning and found him floating in the water. *(Swimming ability - Unknown)*
5. 3/14 – Hennepin Co. – fitness center hot tub – A 75-year-old Ramsey woman drowned while in the hot tub at a fitness center. She was found unresponsive, floating in the water, by another guest. She was removed from the water and lifesaving measures were performed but were unsuccessful. *(Swimming ability – Unknown)*
6. 3/26 – Clay Co. – Red River – A 63-year-old Moorhead man drowned while he was out walking his dogs. He was reported missing when he hadn't returned home, and that he usually walked with them near the river. He was located face-down in the river about an hour and a half later. *(Swimming ability - Unknown)*
7. 5/23 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – An unidentified man was found deceased in the river near a dock at a yacht club. Authorities were looking for a missing teenage boy when the man was found. It is unknown how, when or where the man came to be in the river. *(Swimming ability - Unknown)*
8. 6/7 – Hennepin Co. – hotel pool – A 74-year-old Richfield man drowned while in the hotel swimming pool. He was seen entering the pool at about 12:30 p.m. He was found floating face-down in the pool by a friend, about a half-hour later. CPR was started by the friend, and was continued by paramedics, but was unsuccessful. *(Swimming ability - Swimmer)*
9. 6/29 – Ramsey Co. – White Bear Lake – A 64-year-old Minneapolis man drowned while swimming in the lake. He was participating in a triathlon when a lifeguard noticed him non-responsive on the water surface. She paddled over to him, was able to get him turned face-up in the water and checked his vital signs. Water Patrol was on scene and came over to help. CPR was performed and he was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. *(Swimming ability - Swimmer)*
10. 7/4 – Lake Co. – Baptism River – A 25-year-old Kansas man drowned in the river near Illgen Falls. He was wading in a swimming area when he got to a deep portion of the river and was no longer holding on to rock or shore. He went under as friends attempted to get to him. They were unable to locate him in the water. Rescue Squad personnel also checked the area and didn't find him. He was found hours later in 40 feet of water using an ROV (remotely operated vehicle). *(Swimming ability – Non-Swimmer)*
11. 7/11 – Anoka Co. – private pool – An 86-year-old Andover woman drowned after somehow entering the pool at her daughter's house. She had gone out to sit by the pool at about 5:00 p.m. Her family was looking for her at about 6:00 p.m. and found her at the bottom of the deep end of the pool. The daughter dove in and recovered her and started CPR. Lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful, however. It is unknown how or why she entered the water. She had been a strong swimmer when she was younger. *(Swimming ability - Swimmer)*
12. 7/24 – Hennepin Co. – Lake Independence – An 8-year-old Brooklyn Center boy drowned while at the beach on a field trip. He was found floating in about 3 feet of water inside the marked off swim area. CPR was started and he was transported to the hospital, where he died the following night. A head count had been done about 8 minutes before he was found. *(Swimming ability – Non-Swimmer)*
13. 8/17 – Ramsey Co. – Lake McCarrons – A 53-year-old Minneapolis man was at the park with friends and decided to go swimming. He was found floating face-down in the swim area about 3 minutes later. He was pulled from the water and CPR was started. He was transported to the hospital, where he died 8 days later. *(Swimming ability - Unknown)*

There are also water incidents pending - waiting for information.