
Boating Safety Messaging and Background

Facts

- Boating popularity is high in Minnesota with over 800,000 registered boats.
- Minnesota had a troublesome trend in boater deaths, many of whom were men.
- In 2013, 13 people died in boating accidents in Minnesota.
- Past years boating fatalities: 2012- 15, 2011- 16, 2010 – 12, 2009 – 15
- Majority of deadly boating accidents happen in rural Minnesota.
- The two contributing factors for boating fatalities; “lack of life jacket use” and “operator inattention”.
- The most common cause of boating accidents; falls overboard or capsizing.
- Drinking and boating is a problem — each year, over 30 percent of boating accidents involve alcohol. .

Talking Points

Minnesotans want to get out and enjoy our great lakes and rivers, but we want to urge everyone not to let their guard down.

Boat safe- pay attention, slow down and do not take risks on the water.

Boat sober — We have zero tolerance for any caught drinking and boating on our waters.

Riders need to wear a life jacket every time they step on a boat.

Get trained — the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources provides training and education to boat better, safer and longer. — mndnr.gov.

Children ages 12 to 17 are required to have a boat operators permit for any motorized watercraft over 25 horsepower. For personal watercrafts, the operator must be ages 13 to 17 and possess an operator permit.