

## **ACCIDENT REPORTING**

Federal regulations (33 CFR Part 173; Subpart C – Casualty and Accident Reporting) require the operator of any vessel that is numbered or used for recreational purposes to file a Boating Accident Report (BAR) when, as a result of an occurrence that involves the vessel or its equipment:

1. A person dies; or
2. A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid (i.e. treatment is or should have been provided by a medical practitioner; such as a doctor, nurse, or emergency medical technician);
3. Damage to vessels and other property totals \$2,000 or more or there is a complete loss of any vessel; or
4. A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury.

Boat operators are required to report their accidents to authorities in the jurisdiction where the accident occurred. Reports are required to be made within 48 hours of an occurrence if:

1. A person dies within 24 hours of the occurrence; or
2. A person requires medical treatment beyond first aid; or
3. A person disappears from the vessel.

Boat operators are required to report accidents involving only damage to the vessel and/or property within 10 days of the occurrence. The owner is required to submit the report when the operator cannot. The minimum reporting requirements are set by Federal regulation, but States are allowed to have stricter requirements. Current regulations (33 CFR 174.121) require accident report data to be forwarded to Coast Guard Headquarters within 30 days of receipt by a State or political subdivision (e.g., county sheriff's office). The statistics in this publication are based on accident data submitted by reporting jurisdictions as of May 21, 2007 and cover only accidents meeting the Federal minimum reporting requirements listed above.