

BOATING ACCIDENTS STATISTICAL REPORT

SUMMARY

BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

- Florida continues to lead the nation with a total number of 896,632 **registered vessels** in 2013.
- There were a total of 736 reportable boating accidents in 2013.

2013 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

- Miami-Dade County reported the **highest number of accidents and injuries** (104 total accidents with 4 fatalities and 50 injuries).
- Towed watersport activities were involved in 26 accidents. These accidents resulted in two fatalities and 26 injured persons. PWC were used in seven (27%) of the accidents.
- May was the month with the highest number of accidents.

2013 REPORTABLE BOATING FATALITIES

- **42%** of the fatal accidents were **falls overboard** (22 accidents). Boaters falling overboard remains the main cause of boating fatalities.
- The **leading cause of death** in fatal boating accidents was drowning (74%).
- The deadliest month in 2013 was December with 12 fatalities.
- **Alcohol or drug-use** played a role in 15% of boating fatalities.
- 84% of the victims of fatal boating accidents were males (52).
- The **total fatality count** for 2013 is reported at 62.
- 72% (41) of the 57 operators involved in fatal accidents were over the age of 35.
- 49% (29) of all fatal accidents in 2013 involved vessels 16 feet or less in length.

2013 REPORTABLE BOATING INJURIES

- There were **736 accidents resulting in 420 injuries**. The rate of injury was 47 injuries per 100,000 vessels.

2013 REPORTABLE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

- Personal watercraft (PWC) accounted for 11% of all registered vessels in Florida.
- PWC were involved in 19% (137) of reportable boating accidents.
- 40% of **PWC accidents involved** a collision with another vessel.
- 48% of **PWC accidents occurred** in Monroe, Pinellas and Miami-Dade counties.
- Eight fatalities resulted from the 137 PWC accidents.

2013 BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS

- FWC issued 36,251 **Boating Safety Education ID Cards** in 2013.
- 43% of the cards were issued to persons 21 years of age or younger.
- Of the 36,251 cards issued, 26,714 were issued to males, 8,613 were issued to females, and 924 cards did not specify the person's gender.
- 63% of the **operators** involved in fatal accidents had no formal boater education.

Boating accident statistics for 2013 were compiled on 3/21/2104. Reports received after that date are not included in the following data. In 2013 there were eight missing persons reported. There has not been any updated information as to their status. The eight missing persons have been included in the fatality data.

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