

# You are responsible!

## You Have an Obligation to Report Boating Accidents.



Washington State Parks and  
Recreation Commission  
Boating Programs

**Boom! Crash!** You just ran your beautiful boat into a submerged rock and put a hole in your hull. No one is hurt, but you estimate boat repairs will cost about \$8000.

**Clunk!** Your propeller just fell off and someone trying to recover it before it sinks cuts his finger. A bandage repairs the finger injury and repairs for the prop cost \$350. Must you file an accident report? Do you know how? Remember, filing a boat accident report is different than a car accident. Do you have the right forms? Where do you get them? For the answers to these and other questions, read on...

List the appropriate phone numbers on this form and keep this information on board your vessel.

U.S. Coast Guard \_\_\_\_\_  
State Boating Office 360-586-6590.

Nearest Relative \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Law Enforcement Numbers are listed on reverse side.

## READ AND KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY ON YOUR BOAT

### 1. When to Report

- There is damage by or to the vessel or its equipment that exceeds \$500, or there is complete loss of the vessel.
- There is injury that requires treatment beyond first aid or there is loss of life.
- There is a disappearance of any person on board a vessel (under circumstances indicating death or injury).

### 2. Why Report

By Washington State Law, the operator of a vessel involved in a boating accident that meets one or more of the above criteria is required by Washington State Law (RCW 79A.60.210) to file a Boating Accident Report. The information in the report is used to develop safety regulations, manufacture standards, and statistical analysis for the benefit of the boating public in boating safety education programs. The completed report shall be used for statistical purposes only and shall not be admissible for any purpose in any civil or criminal trial.

### 3. What to Report

#### BOATING ACCIDENTS INCLUDE:

- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Falls in Boat
- Grounding
- Capsizing
- Falls Overboard
- Sinking
- Collisions
- Fire
- Struck by Boat/Prop
- Explosion
- Flooding
- Swamping

### 4. Time Limits

#### WITHIN:

- 48 hours if there is loss of life or disappearance of a person from a vessel (under circumstances indicating death or injury).
- 48 hours if there is injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid.
- 10 days if there is only damage to the vessel and/or property.

### 5. How to Report

#### BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT FORM:

The Boating Accident Report and Investigation form attached may be used in all cases of boating accident reporting. You can reproduce this form as a guide to filling out the official form.

Copies of Boating Accident Report forms and boating safety information is available through Washington State Parks or through your local law enforcement marine unit. On the back of this page is a listing of city and county marine units.

### 6. Who Must Report

The form is to be completed and submitted by the operator of the boat unless the operator is physically unable to complete the form. In that case, then the owner(s) of the vessel must complete and submit the form.

### 7. Report Instructions

Complete pages 1, 2 and 3. On the back of this page are some explanations for the questions used on this form.