



California State Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)

Recreational Boating Accident Program

Overview of the Recreational Boating Accident Program:

The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) collects and analyzes boating accident reports to develop safety strategies and make recommendations in the interest of reducing boating accidents, injuries, and fatalities on California's waterways.

Each year, DBW releases a comprehensive study of boating accidents in California, which provides information on accidents, fatalities, and injuries. This report, California Boating Accident Report, includes special topics such as personal watercraft, youth operators, and fatal alcohol-related accidents, and is available upon request.

In August of 2019, DBW introduced the boating accident database to local law enforcement agencies throughout California. DBW works closely with the Boating Accident Investigation cadre to teach the database, discuss trends, and ensure that students are aware of the State reporting requirement.

DBW continues to participate in the Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee (ERAC). ERAC identifies, evaluates, and analyzes recreational boating data and other related information that can shed light on factors associated with boating incidents; be used to inform the development of state- and national-level boating safety policies, programs and campaigns; and, ultimately, be used to measure their effectiveness.

To ensure that the results of the research and analyses are valid and reliable, ERAC also actively seeks ways to advance the quality, relevance, accuracy, consistency, applicability, and completeness of the data and information.

Statistics:

As of December 31, 2021, there were 593 recreational boating accidents in California, which resulted in 256 injuries and 44 fatalities.