

# Recreational Boating Incident Report Decision Matrix

## Which incidents require a report to the U.S. Coast Guard?

### Part I – Did the incident meet these conditions?

\* Occurred on state or concurrent jurisdictional waters

\* Involved **at least one** of the following federal regulatory thresholds for reporting:

- Fatality
- Person missing
- Injury treated at medical facility
- Damage ≥ \$2,000
- Total loss of vessel

\* Involved **at least one** of the following:  
-Vessel used for recreational purpose  
-State-numbered uninspected vessel

If these are met, go on to Part II. IF NOT, then incident may meet state requirements, but no report to the Coast Guard is required.

### Part II – Did the incident involve any of these?

NOTE: For incidents involving multiple vessels with different operational statuses, if at least one of the vessels involved met conditions in this Part II, a report to the Coast Guard is required

Did incident involve a **properly** docked or moored vessel?

NO

YES

Was the incident a result of any of these?

- carbon monoxide exposure
- stray electrical current attributed to the vessel
- fire / explosion that occurred while fueling or starting the vessel or that was attributed to the vessel's equipment or electrical components

NO

May meet state reporting requirements, but no further action needed for reporting to the Coast Guard

YES

Did incident involve an event listed under Non-Reportable Events (next page)?

YES

NO

Report to Coast Guard required

Did incident involve an anchored vessel?

NO

YES

Did incident involve an event listed under Non-Reportable Events (next page)?

YES

May meet state reporting requirements, but no further action needed for reporting to the Coast Guard

NO

Report to Coast Guard required

For incidents involving all other vessel operational statuses, including **improperly** docked or moored vessels

Was the incident a result of any of these?

- operation
- vessel's construction
- vessel's seaworthiness
- vessel's machinery
- vessel's equipment
- loading of the vessel
- environmental forces

NO

May meet state reporting requirements, but no further action needed for reporting to the Coast Guard

YES

Did incident involve an event listed under Non-Reportable Events (next page)?

YES

NO

Report to Coast Guard required

# Recreational Boating Incident Report Decision Matrix

## Which incidents require a report to the U.S. Coast Guard?

### NON-REPORTABLE EVENTS (see PARTS I and II before applying)

- **Voluntary departure injuries/fatalities.** The only event involved the injury or death of a person who voluntarily entered the water from a vessel, the shore or a place of inherent safety.
- **Towed watersports injury exceptions.** A person suffers an injury or death while participating in towed watersports (including wake surfing) that wasn't due to the operation or equipment of a vessel.
- **Vessel use exceptions.** The only vessel(s) involved were used solely for governmental, criminal (activities in the course of a criminal offense, with the exception of impairment and boating safety-related offenses), disaster response, or sanctioned activity (when practicing for and/or competing in an approved or permitted organized or sanctioned race, event or training program, and where adequate safety precautions are in place).
- **Self-inflicted injuries/fatalities.** Self-inflicted injuries were the cause (examples include: self-inflicted wounds, ingestion of controlled substances or poison, gunshot wounds).
- **Assaults.** A person suffers an injury, dies, or is missing as a result of an assault by another person or persons while aboard a vessel.
- **Medical event.** An incident caused by a person who experienced a medical emergency when the vessel did not contribute and no other underway vessel was involved. A medical event does not refer to physical impairments such as poor eyesight, poor hearing, or mobility difficulties.
- **Watercraft not a "vessel."** The only watercraft involved were not considered "vessels" (examples include: a pool float toy, innertube, float tube propelled by feet or fins, surfboard, submersible, diving propulsion aid, stock tank, air mattress, fish tote, floating dock, unmodified log, snowmobile, and/or seaplane).
- **Foreign flag vessels.** The only vessel(s) involved were foreign flag vessels.
- **Natural phenomenon.** A natural phenomenon was involved (such as interaction with marine life (e.g., carp causes injury to person) and interaction with nature (e.g., mountain side falls onto vessel causing damage)) when no other event occurred and when no other federal regulatory reporting threshold was met.
- **Launching/recovery injuries/fatalities/damages.** Launching or recovery when the vessel is not on the water and capable of use (free from the apparatus from which it is being launched).
- **Boarding/departing injuries/fatalities.** A person suffers an injury while boarding or departing a docked, moored, or anchored vessel, when no other event occurred and when no other federal regulatory reporting threshold was met.
- **Lack of / improper maintenance.** The unoccupied, properly-docked or -moored vessel(s) encountered damages or loss as a result of a lack of or improper vessel maintenance.