

Federal Regulations & Policies

Code of Federal Regulations - Recreational Boating Safety

Policy Letter on Recreational Boating Incident Reporting (CG-BSX PL 23-01, CH-1)

Other Boating Safety-Related Policy Letters:
23-03 Exemption from Preemption for PFD Wear on Paddlecraft
23-02 Restricted OUPV for Recreational Boat Operator Education
22-01 Fees for Issuing a Vessel Certificate of Number
22-02 CH-1 Requirements for eFoils and JetBoards
Sep 2015 Clarification on Size of CON Issued to Vessels

Vessel Determinations

Policy Letters for Recreational Boat Manufacturers

Federal Register site
NASBLA tracking page - open & recently closed comment periods

Regulations.gov

Federal Reporting Guidance

Policy Letter on Recreational Boating Incident Reporting (CG-BSX PL 23-01, CH-1)

Which incidents require a federal report?
Quick reference - decision matrix
Detailed supplement to matrix

Incident Types (chart--‘old’ to ‘new’ terms & definitions)

Click here for FAQs about:
Damages threshold, including
--personal property exclusion
--meaning of associated equipment
--total loss of vessel
Injury threshold, including
--licensed medical facilities
--status of ambulances
Reportable v Not Reportable, including
--"properly" docked/moored vessels
--medical emergencies
--status of float tubes
--self-inflicted injuries
Documentation, including
--recording collision with fixed object
--reporting responsibility on federal waters

Reporting Best Practices & Checklists

Incident report narratives
What to include and exclude

Alcohol & drug involvement
Determining and recording

Standardized terms & definitions:
Incident Types (use mandated by CG-BSX 23-01, CH-1)

Contributing Factors/Causes*
Operation*
Activity*
Vessel Types / Subtypes*

*Updated lists approved by NASBLA membership, 2020; not yet mandated for federal reporting; [click here](#) for detail)

Incident Investigations:
Electric shock drownings
Response & investigation checklist

Carbon monoxide incidents
Response & investigation checklist

Human factors

Investigative Training Standard:
ANSI/NASBLA 500-2025:
Investigative Training for Boating Incidents

Annual Incident Statistics

Coast Guard Reports

2025 pending release August 2026

Available for download at uscgboating.org:
2024
2023
2022
2021
2020
2019

1960 to present available at [NASBLA Public Library](#)
To locate reports, search using combination of three keywords--
[Boating incidents](#) [Statistics](#) [USCG](#)

National Boating Surveys

National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS)

Interactive StoryMap - NRBSS Overview

2026 Survey underway – see USCG Boating Safety Division webpage for detail

2018 Survey
Participation Survey Report
Exposure Survey Report
See also Errata Sheet for 2018 reports

Past Reports available via links at Lighthouse NRBSS webpage:

2012 Survey Report

2012 State-Level Data Tables Package (produced by NASBLA ERAC):
Presents boat numbers and exposure hours by state, boat type, and registration status

2012 Survey Methodology, Fact Sheets, Research Briefs