

Recreational Boating Accidents/Incidents

Reporting Requirements / Guidelines

CT EnCon Police

Connecticut General Statutes require the following regarding **recreational** boating accidents:

*The operator of a vessel involved in a boating accident which results in any of the circumstances noted below shall **immediately** notify the nearest law enforcement agency or CT EnCon Police, and, within 48 hours after the accident, report the matter in writing on a form provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Boating Division:*

- The death of any person from whatever cause
- The disappearance of any person from on board
- The injury of any person requiring medical attention beyond first aid

Additionally, any accident in which the total damages to all property affected is in excess of \$500 must be reported by the operator within 5 days after the accident on forms provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Boating Division.

The operator of the boat must make out the report. If for any reason the operator cannot make out the report, the owner or survivor of the accident should initiate the report. *(Operators are required to report, even if a law enforcement officer has also filed a report.)* For forms or answers to questions, please contact the Boating Division at (860) 434-8638, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Also, tow vessels / services responding to a boating accident are required to notify the local LE agency / CT EnCon Police if they have not already been notified, as soon as practical after securing the safety of the vessel(s) and people on board.

Guidelines:

Contact USCG Sector LIS / local marine police on VHF 16 for immediate response to any boating accident. USCG Comms Center should be notifying CT EnCon Police dispatch (860 424-3333) of accidents involving fatalities, missing persons and serious injuries, but if possible local PDs and FDs can also have CT EnCon Police dispatch notified to be sure an officer is responding while the incident is still active, and to ensure activation of EnCon Police Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (EnCon Police BARU) members for serious incidents.

Sgt. Eric Lundin – CT EnCon Police, Marine District, Old Lyme CT (860) 447-4357 (O); (860) 930-0408 in emergencies

CT DEEP / EnCon Police Emergency Dispatch: (860) 424-3333

CT Accident Reporting Form (PDF) link:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/Boating/Boating_forms/accidentreport.pdf