

# Personal Watercraft – Don't Let Summer Fun Lead to Summer Dangers



## Key Facts & Planning

- ✓ Alcohol use is the leading factor contributing to fatal watercraft accidents.
- ✓ Distractions play a major role in many watercraft accidents.
- ✓ A high percent of fatalities involve drowning of people who are not wearing life jackets.
- ✓ Only 12% of fatalities occur on watercraft where the operator has received accredited training.
- ✓ State laws may change or vary in regard to operator ages or safety requirements. Stay up to date on changes.
- ✓ Know the hazards of the lake or river you are on. If the body of water is unfamiliar, obtain information and observe all markers.



According to the Coast Guard, 5,265 watercraft accidents occurred in 2020. These resulted in 767 deaths and 3,191 injuries.



It only takes a second for a fun day to go bad. Practice safe boating, jet ski, and water safety at all times to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Best Practices

- ✓ Never operate watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or any other substance and avoid distracted driving at all times.
- ✓ Operators should take a certified safety course. No one below state age requirements should operate a boat or jet ski.
- ✓ Always post a lookout and follow all rules when operating a watercraft.
- ✓ Follow all watercraft speed and operating rules around other craft, shorelines, or fixed objects.
- ✓ Monitor weather conditions and don't take chances when poor weather develops.