

# Reporting a Boating Accident

As the operator of a vessel, you are required by law to file a formal, written report of your boating accident with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife under certain circumstances.

## When a Report is Required

A formal, written report must be filed with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife when there is:

- Damage over \$500 by or to the vessel or its equipment;
- Injury (requiring medical help beyond first aid) or loss of life; and/or
- Disappearance of any person on board a vessel.

**Failure to report boating accidents as specified above shall be in violation of KRS 235.250. When a person dies or disappears as a result of an occurrence that involves a vessel or its equipment, the operator is required by law to notify the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources or the most immediately available Department Conservation Officer without delay and by the quickest means possible.**

## Time Frame for Reporting

Reports must be filed within the following time frames from the boating accident:

- 48 hours if there is loss of life within 24 hours of the accident;
- 48 hours if a person involved is injured and cannot perform usual activities;
- 48 hours if a person disappears;
- 10 days if an earlier report is not required but becomes necessary; and/or
- 10 days if the boat or property damage is in excess of \$500 or total boat loss.

## How to Report an Accident

You may submit the completed forms in person or send them to:

*Law Enforcement Division — Boating Accident  
The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources  
#1 Sportsman Lane  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601*

The boat operator or owner usually completes the form unless she/he is physically unable to do so. Call the Law Enforcement Division at the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources if you have difficulty completing an accident report form (Central Office in Frankfort, 800-858-1549).

**To report an accident that has just occurred, please contact the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Dispatch office at (800)25-ALERT.**

## **Why Report an Accident**

Reporting boating accidents is required by law in the specific situations mentioned (see "When a Report is Required"). The information you submit is used to determine safer boating practices which are then shared with the boating public, boat manufacturers and equipment manufacturers. The details you provide may prevent another boater from having a similar accident. Thank you for your cooperation with the law and in helping others.

## **Duty to Stop and Render Assistance**

It is the duty of every operator involved in a collision to stop and offer assistance.

KRS 235.250

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