

## Accident Reporting

John Collins, USCG Auxiliary Sector Boston ADSO-PE

33 CFR § 173.55(a)(1)-(4), <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-I/subchapter-S/part-173/subpart-C/section-173.55> requires operators of recreational vessels to submit a casualty or accident report to the “reporting authority,” which is defined at 33 CFR § 173.3 as a state listed in 33 CFR part 173, Appendix A, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-I/subchapter-S/part-173> or the Coast Guard if no state is listed. It requires a report to the reporting authority under the following conditions:

- a. A death;
- b. An injury that requires medical treatment beyond first aid;
- c. Damage to vessels and other property that totals \$2,000 or more or results in the complete loss of a vessel (\$2,000 is the federal threshold, a state or territory may establish a lesser value;
- d. The disappearance of a person under circumstances that indicate death or injury.

The CFR also specifies the time frame in which the accident must be reported.

The Coast Guard uses the required reports to create the statistics which is posted on [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org). This meets the requirement of 46 U.S.C. § 6102(b), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/46/6102> which requires the Coast Guard to collect, analyze, and publish information about the reports it receives.

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