

## 2021 Minnesota Boating Accident and Drowning Summary

Prepared by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Boat and Water Safety

### Summary of Accidents – Compared to Prior Years

Accident Category and Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Boating Fatalities</b>	18	16	10	14	12	18	18	14	12	15
<b>Non-Fatal Boating Accidents</b>	69	89	90	64	92	79	71	36	65	72
<b>Non-Boating Drownings</b>	53	49	35	40	31	40	35	29	30	40

### Boating Fatalities

1. 4/14 – Mille Lacs Co. – Mille Lacs Lake – A 35-year-old Garrison man drowned when his 16 1/2-foot motorboat flooded with water, causing him to fall overboard. He and three passengers had gone out to do some fish netting. After about 20 minutes, they decided to turn around and go back to shore because the water was getting too choppy. Waves came over the boat causing the front to dip, putting the four men into the water. One passenger held a life jacket and swam toward shore, two were able to climb back into the boat (one was wearing an inflatable PFD). The operator was found unresponsive in the water and was taken to shore by another boat. Lifesaving measures were started and he was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. *(Life jacket worn – no)*
2. 4/30 – Cass Co. – Leech Lake – A 68-year-old Pierz man drowned after falling overboard from his 16-foot motorboat. He had noticed water in the back of the boat and thought he had a leaking drain plug. He grabbed another plug, lifted the motor, and leaned over the transom to replace the faulty plug. His passenger heard him fall in and threw him a life jacket and a throwable flotation device, and then tried to move the boat to rescue him. The man was under water and the passenger jumped in and held the man's head above water. Others arrived and helped them to shore where CPR was started, to no avail. *(Life jacket worn – no)*
3. 5/17 – Wabasha Co. – Weaver Bottoms, Mississippi River – An 88-year-old Cochrane, WI man drowned after somehow falling overboard from his 18-foot motorboat. He had been out fishing by himself since late morning. A fisherman saw the unoccupied boat driving in circles and called authorities at about 7:43 p.m. His body was recovered at about 9:20 p.m. *(Life jacket worn – no)*
4. 5/29 – Dakota Co. – Crystal Lake – A 36-year-old Burnsville man drowned while attempting to save his girlfriend, who had gone into the water from the 21-foot motorboat she was a passenger on. He jumped in the water from the boat, to attempt to help her get back to the boat. She was able to get back in the boat, but he told her he thought he was going to drown. She put on a life jacket and threw one toward him. He went under the water, and she couldn't see him. She jumped in the water but couldn't locate him. She called 911. His body was recovered about 6 hours later. *(Life jacket worn – no)*
5. 5/31 – St. Louis Co. – Trout Lake – A 51-year-old Bowlus man drowned after falling overboard from the 16-foot motorboat in which he was a passenger. He and the other two occupants were fishing while slowly trolling. The man was in a seat on the raised casting deck and the operator noticed he was dozing off. They were still trolling when suddenly the operator heard a splash. He looked over and saw the man had fallen in. The man briefly came to the surface and then went under. The operator jumped in to help him but couldn't hold him up without going under himself and he had to let go. Another boat came over

to help and they got the man to shore and started CPR. The lake is in the BWCA with water access only and ambulance staff arrived with assistance from a U.S. Forest Service float plane. Lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful. (*Life jacket worn – no*)

6. 6/1 – Ramsey Co. – Lake Gervais – A 20-year-old St. Paul man drowned when the 14 ½-foot canoe he and two others were in capsized at about 7:30 p.m. All three went into the lake, but only two resurfaced. None of the three were wearing a life jacket. A nearby witness came to help. He tried to grab the operator, who was still submerged, but couldn't. He got the two passengers, who were struggling in the water, into his boat. The operator went below the water line and was no longer visible. A search was started by authorities and his body was recovered at about 11:15 p.m. (*Life jacket worn – no*)
7. 6/11 – Cass Co. – Long Lake – A 24-year-old Chaska man was waterskiing behind a 19-foot motorboat when he fell and hit his head against the water. He was unresponsive and CPR was started. He was transported by Air Care to a hospital in the Twin Cities, where he died. (*Life jacket worn – yes*)
8. 6/6 – Kandiyohi Co. – Big Kandiyohi Lake – A 32-year-old Danube man drowned while swimming from an unanchored 17-foot motorboat. The boat was stopped to let the man and three children swim. No one was wearing a life jacket in the water. It was windy and wavy, and the boat was drifting. One child began to struggle, and the man tried to help. He began to struggle and went under the water before the boat could reach him. The child was saved from the water. The man's body was recovered on 6/9. (*Life jacket worn – no*)
9. 6/11 – Aitkin Co. – Big Sandy Lake – A 34-year-old North Branch man died after he fell overboard, at about 11:30 p.m., from a 20-foot pontoon boat, which was underway. He was a passenger and was on the front of the boat when he fell. He went under the boat and was struck by the motor propeller. He sank in the water. His body was located and recovered just after 5:00 p.m. the following day. (*Life jacket worn – no*)
10. 6/24 – Itasca Co. – Little Splithand Lake – A 30-year-old Grand Rapids man drowned after falling overboard from the side-door on his 20-foot pontoon boat. The boat was drifting while the passenger was fishing from the bow of the boat. The man was at the back of the boat. The passenger heard him walk to the port side of the boat and heard him fall into the water from the side door, which was open. She jumped in the water to save him but was unable to locate him. She swam back to the boat and yelled for help. A nearby angler came to help and called 911. A search was started, and the man's body was recovered on 6/29/21. (*Life jacket worn – no*)
11. 6/30 – Hennepin Co. – Lake Minnetonka – A 15-year-old Chanhassen boy died after an 11-foot personal watercraft (PWC) collided with the 9-foot PWC he was operating. The operators were friends that were out riding and jumping wakes. The victim's PWC stopped suddenly and was hit by the one his friend was operating, causing injury to the boy and damage to both watercraft. (*Life jacket worn – yes*)
12. 7/12 – Hubbard Co. – Little Mantrap Lake – A 65-year-old Brooklyn Park man drowned after falling overboard from his 14-foot motorboat. Witnesses said they heard a boat speed past their boat while they were fishing. They then heard a loud bang and looked up to see a boat driving in circles and a man in the water. They went over to help and threw a life jacket to the man, but he couldn't grab it and he went under. One witness tried to dive for the man but couldn't find him. His body was located and recovered almost 3 hours later. (*Life jacket worn – no*)
13. 7/19 – St. Louis Co. – Loon Lake – A 73-year-old Fort Lupton, CO man drowned after the 17-foot canoe he was paddling capsized in the BWCAW. He and his passenger were camping when they were advised of park closures due to wildfire activity in the area. They packed up camp and as they were paddling toward another lake, a storm came up. They turned toward shore and a large wave capsized the canoe. The passenger swam toward shore and the man held on to the canoe. When the passenger reached shore, he could not see the man anywhere. He used a satellite phone to call for assistance. The man's body was recovered about four hours later. (*Life jackets worn – no*)

14. 8/10 – Aitkin Co. – Waukenabo Lake – A 63-year-old Lakewood, CO man drowned after he jumped from an unanchored pontoon boat to swim. He started to struggle in the water and life jackets were thrown to him but missed. He went under the water and did not resurface. His body was recovered by authorities about nine hours later. *(Life jackets worn – no)*
15. 8/12 – St. Louis Co. – Sand Lake – A 21-year-old Roseville man drowned while trying to swim to shore from a capsized 18-foot canoe. He had been fishing while his friend was paddling the canoe. They encountered high winds and large waves and the canoe took on water and capsized. They stood on the submerged canoe and eventually tried to swim to shore. The operator made it to the island, but the victim never arrived. His body was recovered on 8/16. *(Life jackets worn – no)*
16. 8/16 – Crow Wing Co. – Ruth Lake – A 66-year-old Towanda, KS man drowned after diving off the drifting 19-foot pontoon boat he was a passenger on. The operator felt that something was wrong and then saw the man struggling and beginning to panic. The man was hanging on to the side of the pontoon but couldn't continue. The operator threw several life jackets to him. Another boater heard calls for help and got the man in their boat and back to the public access. First responders rendered aid, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. *(Life jackets worn – no)*
17. 8/19 – Cass Co. – Leech Lake – A 65-year-old Oak Grove man drowned after going in the water from his drifting 24-foot pontoon boat. A witness in another boat saw him in the water with his dog as they went by. When they came by again, they saw the dog swimming away from the boat and the man was nowhere to be seen. They called 911. The man's body was recovered about 1 ½ hours later. *(Life jacket worn – no)*
18. 8/20 – Ramsey Co. – White Bear Lake – A 43-year-old Brooklyn Park man drowned while swimming from a rented 22-foot pontoon boat. He was a passenger on the drifting boat and was in the water swimming. He became distressed and went under water. The others on the boat attempted to find him but were unsuccessful. Authorities arrived and started searching. He was located, put in a boat (where CPR was started) and brought to shore. A waiting ambulance took him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He had been in the water a little more than an hour. *(Life jacket worn – no)*

**Summary:** There were 18 fatal accidents, involving 19 boats, resulting in 18 deaths and 4 injuries. There was \$7,240 in damage to watercraft. There were 2.3 deaths per 100,000 registered boats, compared to the U.S. rate of 5.5. Of the 18 accidents, 17 were single boat accidents, classified as 6 falls overboard, 6 intentionally left an unanchored watercraft, 3 capsizings, 1 skier mishap and 1 flooding/swamping. There was also a collision between two personal watercraft. Three of the deaths involved non-motorized craft (all canoes) and 16 involved motorized craft (including 6 pontoon boats and 2 personal watercraft). Of the 19 watercraft involved, 17 had life jackets on board, but a life jacket was being worn by only two of the 18 victims (11%). The most common operator age ranges were 61 years and over (7) and 31-40 years old (4). Alcohol was listed as a factor in 9 of the 18 incidents (50%).

## Non-Fatal Boating Accidents

Type of Accident	Number
Capsizing	3
Collision with a fixed or floating object	7
Collision with another watercraft	26
Collision with an underwater object	1
Collision with swimmer or person in water	0
Fall in boat	3
Falls overboard	8
Fire/Explosion	6
Grounding, Hitting Bottom	3

Type of Accident	Number
Struck by Propeller	2
Sinking / Flooding / Swamping	3
Water-skiing, wake boarding or tubing mishap	6
Carbon Monoxide exposure	0
Other	1
<b>Total Non-Fatal Boating Accidents</b>	<b>69</b>

Notes:

1. Reportable non-fatal boating accidents are those where there was at least \$2000 in property damage, an injury beyond first aid or total loss of the boat.

**Summary:** There were 69 reportable non-fatal boating accidents involving 99 watercraft, resulting in 51 injuries. There was also \$447,440 in damage to watercraft and \$14,200 in damage to other property. The most common boat length ranges were 16-18 feet (27), 21-26 feet (26) and 12 feet and under (25). The operator age ranges were 61 years and older (20), followed by 51-60 years old (16), 31-40 years old (14), 18-25 years old (13), 41-50 years old (11), 13-17 years old (9), and 26-30 years old (3). Two of the operators were less than 9 years old. Eight of the boats involved in incidents were unoccupied and the ages of 3 of the operators is unknown. The most common age ranges for persons with injuries were 18-25 years old (22), 13-17 years old (9), 31-40 years old (7) and 41-50 years old (6) tied with 51-60 years old (6). Alcohol was known to be a factor in 10 of the 69 total non-fatal accidents (14.5%)

## Non-Boating Drownings

1. 1/10 – Beltrami Co. – Lake Irving – A 58-year-old Bemidji man drowned after the pick-up truck he was driving on the ice went into open water near where the Mississippi River exits the lake. He had been in his fish house and left about 3:00 a.m. Authorities were called later that day when friends and family were unable to make contact with him. They followed the vehicle tracks from the fish house to the open water. The truck was located in the water, but the man was not in it. His body was found on 1/11, about 40-50 yards from the truck, with the assistance of a ROV drone.
2. 1/12 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – A 34-year-old New Brighton woman drowned while taking a bath. She was found with her face in the water. It is thought she may have had a medical incident while she was bathing, causing her to drown.
3. 1/28 – Dakota Co. – Lemay Lake – A 13-year-old Bloomington boy drowned after falling in the lake. He was reported missing about 1:30 p.m. His boot was found floating near some broken ice, in open water from a drainpipe, at about 2:15. He was recovered by a county sheriff's diver at about 3:30 p.m. It is thought he may have been on the edge of the ice when it gave way, causing him to fall in the water.
4. 2/5 – Fillmore Co. – water bucket – A 1-year-old Harmony girl drowned while playing with water in a mop bucket. She was found with her head in the bucket. CPR was started by her father. Emergency services were called, but resuscitation was unsuccessful.
5. 3/13 – Washington Co. – residential hot tub – A 64-year-old Birchwood Village man drowned while in his hot tub. His wife woke from a nap and could not find him. She eventually located him submerged face down in the hot tub. Lifesaving measures were unsuccessful.
6. 4/16 – Isanti Co. – drainage pond – A 3-year-old Cambridge boy was found in a nearby drainage pond after being reported missing. He had been playing in the backyard and was somehow able to open the gate. A search was started and he was located in the pond. CPR was started and he was transported to the medical center, and then airlifted to another hospital, where he died on 4/21.
7. 5/1 – Hennepin Co. – Mississippi River – A 27-year-old Minneapolis man drowned after falling from the Stone Arch Bridge at about 11:00 p.m. He was with friends and was going to do some "tagging" with

spray paint on the bridge. He climbed over the railing and fell. He went under the water in the middle pool directly below the St. Anthony Falls. A search was conducted that night, with no results. Deputies did a search every day until his body was recovered on 5/25.

8. 5/2 – Washington Co. – residential bathtub – A 38-year-old Oak Park Heights man drowned in his bathtub. He lived alone was found by a family member with his head and shoulders submerged in the water. It is unknown how long he had been in the water. His last contact with family members was the evening of 4/30.
9. 5/5 – Dakota Co. – residential bathtub – A 32-year-old Apple Valley woman drowned while bathing at her apartment. Neighbors reported hearing loud music about 9:30 p.m., and the water running about 11:00 p.m. She was found deceased in the bathtub on 5/6 at 6:45 p.m.
10. 5/11 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – An 86-year-old White Bear Lake man drowned while in the bathtub. He was found in 6 inches of water in the tub. It is thought he may have fallen while showering and knocked himself unconscious. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.
11. 5/20 – Hennepin Co. – hotel pool – A 4-year-old Minneapolis boy was found floating in the pool at the hotel. His siblings flagged down a man who jumped in the pool, grabbed the boy, and started CPR. Paramedics arrived and transported the boy to the medical center, where he died on 5/24/2021.
12. 5/26 – Dakota Co. – apartment pool – A 5-year-old Burnsville boy drowned after he somehow entered the pool at an apartment building. He had been reported missing by his parents about 40 minutes before he was spotted face down in the pool by a passerby. 911 was called and he was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.
13. 5/26 – Hennepin Co. – Mississippi River – The body of a 37-year-old Minneapolis man was found floating in the river in Minneapolis. It is unknown how, when or where he had entered the water.
14. 5/27 – Ramsey Co. – Loeb Lake – An 18-year-old Minneapolis man was found floating near the fishing dock. It is unknown how or when he had entered the water.
15. 5/30 – Hennepin Co. – Loring Pond – A 31-year-old New Hope man drowned while attempting to swim. He had walked into the water at about 8:10 p.m. and started swimming toward the middle. He started to struggle and went under about 15 minutes after entering the water. Authorities arrived and started searching with an inflatable boat. The man's body was recovered about three hours later.
16. 6/4 – Hennepin Co. – North Commons Pool – A 12-year-old Minneapolis boy drowned in the closed park pool, where he had jumped the fence. His brother was out looking for him and found him going down the slide inside the locked gate. The brother tried to find a way into the pool area and saw the boy again go down the slide and into the pool. He didn't surface. 911 was called. Police arrived, unlocked the gate, and started CPR. The boy died at the hospital.
17. 6/5 – Nicollet Co. – park pool – A 9-year-old North Mankato boy was swimming in the pool at the swim facility. He went under and didn't resurface. He was found unresponsive by a lifeguard. Lifesaving measures were started and he was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. He had been under water about 9 minutes.
18. 6/6 – Anoka Co. – Moore Lake – A 26-year-old Fridley man drowned while attempting to help a child. The family was floating on inflatable tubes in the lake. The man had one child on the tube with him and another child was alone on a tube. That child started to fall off, and the man went to help her, and they all went in the water. The mother attempted to help but she and the child she was with also went in the water. While they were being rescued, the man went under water and couldn't be located. He was recovered by a diver about 20 minutes later. He was taken to the hospital, but later died.
19. 6/6 – Hennepin Co. – hotel pool – A 39-year-old Charlotte, NC man drowned while swimming in a hotel pool in Bloomington. He was found in about 5 feet of water and was pulled out. CPR was started and he was transported to the hospital where he died about 45 minutes later.

20. 6/7 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – A 12-year-old St. Paul boy was swimming at Hidden Falls Regional Park, at about 7:00 p.m., when the strong current swept him away and he went underwater. A search was started that evening and continued until midnight. It continued the following day and again on the morning of 6/9, when his body was recovered about 4.6 miles downstream from where he had been swimming.
21. 6/9 – St. Louis Co. – St. Louis River – A 31-year-old Superior, WI man drowned while attempting to rescue two children that had been swept out from shore. The children were rescued by other people on site, but the man had gone under and was caught in the current. A search was started and his body was recovered from 13 feet of water more than three hours later.
22. 6/12 – Washington Co. – St. Croix River – A 46-year-old Plymouth man drowned while swimming with his children in the river at William O'Brien State Park. All three started to struggle and a bystander was able to pull the children from the water. The man went under water and didn't resurface. He was found in 8 feet of water, about 25 feet from shore, about an hour later. Life saving measures were attempted, with no results.
23. 6/12 – Anoka Co. – Lions Park pond – A 2-year-old Coon Rapids boy drowned after wandering away and going into the pond. He was found by deputies and removed from the water. Lifesaving measures were started and he was transported to the hospital, where he died a week later.
24. 6/12 – Stearns Co. – Quarry 2 at Quarry Park – An 18-year-old St. Cloud man drowned after jumping into the water at the swimming quarry. He was with friends who were in the water and formed a circle for him to jump into. He jumped off the dock into the circle and didn't come back up. The friends dove to try to find him, but the water was too deep. He had little prior swimming experience. The county dive team found him in 25 feet of water and brought him to shore, where life saving measures were started. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.
25. 6/13 – Wright Co. – Lake Cedar – A 52-year-old Monticello man jumped into the water to assist some children who had drifted away from an anchored pontoon boat. The kids were wearing life jackets while they were in the water swimming. It was windy and the boat was drifting on its anchor line. The man got one child back to the boat, went under water and didn't resurface. Deputies found the man in the water and started CPR. He had been under about 17 minutes. He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. All the children got back to the boat safely.
26. 6/13 – Washington Co. – Carver Lake – A 9-year-old St. Paul boy drowned while swimming at the beach. He was reported missing, and a human-chain search of the swim area was started when officers arrived. He was found in 8 feet of water, brought to shore, and lifesaving measures were started. He was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.
27. 6/18 – Wabasha Co. – Zumbro River – A 57-year-old Pine Island woman was rock hunting along the shore and decided to take a break in the water. She was floating on her back in the shallows with the current. She floated out to the deep, fast-moving current and became distressed. She tried to grab a log and her husband attempted to reach her. She let go of the log and drifted downstream. Her body was recovered about an hour later.
28. 6/28 – St. Louis Co. – Bailey's Lake – A 30-year-old Virginia woman was reported missing on 6/29. She had been seen swimming in the lake, a common practice for her, about 6:30 p.m. on 6/28. A search of the lake was conducted, and her body was located in 44 feet of water on 7/1.
29. 7/1 – Hennepin Co. – Lake Minnetonka – A 26-year-old Apple Valley man drowned while in the water at Commons Beach with a friend. They were walking in the marked swim area and the water started getting deeper. There were waves and current and they both started to struggle. They couldn't touch the bottom and the man was not a strong swimmer. The friend called for help and the man went under. He was located, in about 8 feet of water, by authorities. CPR was started and he was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

30. 7/3 – Red Lake Co. – Red Lake River – A 24-year-old man from the Grand Forks Air Base drowned while with a group of friends. They were going to tube down the river, but the man couldn't swim and because the water levels were low, he decided to walk in the river alongside his group. He got to a deeper area with a strong current, stepped into a deep hole and went under. The friends dove, but were unable to locate him, and 911 was called. His body was recovered about two hours later.
31. 7/4 – Dakota Co. – Lake Marion – A 28-year-old St. Paul man drowned after falling off a float. He was floating outside the swimming area at a park beach at about 3:30 p.m. After he fell off the float, it started to get pushed by the wind and current toward shore. The man attempted to swim after it. The water was rough from many boats in the area, and he went under. His body was recovered from 5 feet of water about 4 ½ hours later.
32. 7/4 – Kandiyohi Co. – North Long Lake – A 28-year-old Paynesville man drowned while retrieving his bobber. He had been fishing from a dock when he lost his bobber. He jumped in to get it and began struggling. His girlfriend jumped in to help, but he pulled her down and she swam to shore. He went under and was recovered about 30 minutes later in 8 ½ feet of water. CPR was attempted, to no avail.
33. 7/5 – Hubbard Co. – Lake Ojibwe – A 68-year-old Park Rapids man drowned while attempting to clean the area. He was walking the shoreline and due to a physical condition, he fell in the water. He was unable to self-rescue. He was discovered in the water by his spouse a few hours later.
34. 7/5 – Washington Co. – St. Croix River – A 38-year-old Brooklyn Park man drowned while swimming in the river at Point Douglas Park. He began to struggle and went under the water. 911 was called. He was found on the bottom of the river by a bystander who was helping with the search. CPR was started by deputies, and he was transported to the hospital, where he later died.
35. 7/10 – Ramsey Co. – creek – A 90-year-old St. Paul woman was reported missing by her family the morning of 7/9. They had been searching the area in the evening on 7/10 when they found her in a nearby creek. Her walking cane and shoes were nearby. It is thought she may have gotten lost and fell in the creek.
36. 7/17 – Otter Tail Co. – East Battle Lake – A 35-year-old Creston, IA man drowned while swimming. He was with family on a point north of the cabin when he decided to swim back to the cabin. He started struggling and a family member swam out to help him. He was able to get the man above the surface. A boat came to assist getting them back to shore, where paramedics took over. It is thought he was under water for about 4 minutes.
37. 7/18 – Dakota Co. – Earley Lake – A 20-year-old Eagan man drowned after entering the water. Authorities received a call regarding some personal items found near the edge of the water. A search for the owner was started and a drone was used to search the water. The man's body was found about 55 feet from shore, fully submerged.
38. 7/19 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – A 28-year-old St. Paul man was found floating between a barge and a retaining wall in the St. Paul area. It is unknown how, when or where he entered the water.
39. 7/24 – Carver Co. – Lake Minnewashta – A 13-year-old Bloomington girl was reported missing while swimming from a floating water mat that was tethered to an anchored boat. She had been swimming and doing deep dives. She was last seen on the anchored boat, and about a minute later was determined to be missing. A search of the water was started and 911 was called. The county water patrol and divers searched the water, and she was located in 13 feet of water about 3 hours later.
40. 8/1 – Dakota Co. – Schultz Lake – A 34-year-old Eagan man was found floating near the swim area at the county park on 8/3. The fire department was able to walk out and bring him back to shore. He had last been seen on 8/1 leaving his parked vehicle and walking toward the lake with a towel.
41. 8/2 – Pine Co. – Elbow Lake – A 19-year-old Kettle River man drowned while in the water with friends. They had gone to an area of the lake that was free of weeds. He was not a strong swimmer, but they

had a floating raft and the lake was calm. He tried to stay near the raft, but a gust of wind blew it away. He started to struggle and went under. His body was found and recovered almost 4 hours later.

42. 8/7 – Carver Co. – Brickyard Clayhole – A 5-year-old Nashville, TN boy drowned after leaving a nearby residence. He was reported missing by family and a search of the area was conducted. He was located face-up in the water about 12 feet from shore. He was pulled from the water and CPR was started. He was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.
43. 8/8 or 8/9 – Hennepin Co. – Mississippi River – A 47-year-old Burnsville man drowned after somehow entering the river. Deputies received a report of a body in the river on 8/11. It is unknown where, when or why he came to be in the water.
44. 8/20 – Lake Co. – Lake Superior – A 58-year-old Knife River woman drowned while swimming in the lake with her husband. She was the better swimmer and went out farther than the husband wanted to, so he went back to shore. The waves were 2-3 feet high, and he saw her swimming out farther and down the beach. She was found face-up in the water by a man on the beach about an hour later. CPR was started and she was transported to the hospital, where she was pronounced deceased.
45. 8/22 – Aitkin Co. – Rabbit Lake – A 52-year-old Mound man drowned while visiting his family. They weren't sure where he had gone and started looking for him. They found him face-down in the water about 15 minutes later. They thought he had probably gone in the water to pull weeds before a boat ride.
46. 8/29 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – A 20-year-old Vadnais Heights man drowned after being washed into the river from a flooded tunnel. He was exploring a storm sewer tunnel with four friends, at about 12:50 a.m., when rainwater caused the tunnel to flood. All five men were washed into the river. Four were able to swim to shore. The victim was washed to the middle of the river, and they lost sight of him. A search was started and his body was recovered about 10 ½ hours later.
47. 8/31 – Olmsted Co. – residential pool – A 60-year-old Rochester man drowned while cleaning his pool. His wife had called for him and he didn't answer. She went to check on him and found him unresponsive in the pool. She screamed for help and the neighbors came to help get him from the water. Lifesaving efforts were started and were continued by county deputies when they arrived on scene, however, they were unsuccessful.
48. 9/3 – Ramsey Co. – Mississippi River – A 67-year-old St. Paul man was found floating in the river under a marina dock. It is unknown where, how or when he came to be in the water.
49. 9/6 – Hennepin Co. – Lake Nokomis – A 9-year-old Minneapolis boy was in the water, outside the marked swim area, with his father and brother. The water got deep and they all started to struggle. A lifeguard saw that there were people in distress and swam out to help. She got to the father and swam him toward shore. He was heavy and she discovered he was holding onto the brother of the victim. Once on shore, rescue breathing and CPR were started on the brother and he began breathing on his own. The victim was found during a human-chain search and was brought to shore. It is thought he had been under about 5 minutes. Lifesaving measures were started on him and all three were transported to the hospital. The victim died at the hospital on 9/12.
50. 9/6 – Hennepin Co. – unnamed lake at Rosland Park – A 2-year-old Minneapolis girl drowned after somehow entering the lake. She had been reported missing and authorities started a search which continued the following day. While checking one side of the lake, they received a report of a body near shore on the opposite side of the lake. She was found in 5 feet of water about 10 feet from shore.
51. 10/3 – Ramsey Co. – residential bathtub – An 89-year-old Roseville woman drowned in her bathtub. She was found by her son when he stopped by to check on her, after he had tried contacting her several times.
52. 10/11 – Crow Wing Co. – Little Rabbit Lake – A 69-year-old Deerwood man drowned while apparently swimming to retrieve his boat that had floated away from the boat launch. Authorities received a report



of an empty boat drifting on the lake near the launch area. It is thought that while backing into the water, the boat came off the trailer and drifted out away from the dock. He parked his truck and trailer in the parking area and went to retrieve his boat by swimming out to it. There were personal items in the truck and his shoes and socks were on the dock. His body was recovered the following morning, about 15 feet from the dock.

53. 12/24 – Beltrami Co. – Lake Bemidji – A 69-year-old Bemidji man drowned when his truck broke through 5-inches of ice while he was driving to his fish house. His passenger was able to escape the vehicle and was pulled from the water. The man was still in the truck when it fully submerged in 9-feet of water. A firefighter wearing a cold-water suit went in the water and was able to pull the man from the truck and got him to safe ice. Lifesaving efforts were started and he was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. He had been in the water about 25 minutes.

**Summary:** There were 53 non-boating drownings. Location of drowning: 23 in lakes, 13 in rivers/creek, 7 in pools/hot tub, 4 in ponds, 5 in bathtubs, and 1 in a washbucket. The age ranges for the victims were 31-40 years old (10), followed by 61 years old and over (8), 0-5 years old (7) tied with 26-30 years old (7), 18-25 years old (6) tied with 51-60 years old (6), 6-12 years old (5), 13-17 years old (2) and 41-50 years old (2). Victims' ages ranged from 1 year old to 90 years old. Alcohol use was listed in 28.3% of the non-boating drowning incidents.