

For some of us, it's that time of year.



Boats sit up for long periods in cold. Advise your customers to check all the following from WET with robust maintenance. Water exposure is the enemy. Offer your services for a pre storage inspection. What is protected pre storage will be first to inspect before warm weather launching. Take pictures:

Water exposure must be mitigated

Propellers: Blades, shafts, hubs

Clean battery and terminals or remove

Distributor, plugs, carburetor

Check corrosion before you put up

Inspect/disconnect fuel lines, connections

Check belts

Protect steering components

Hull/Transom for damage, marks, and gashes— especially if stored in crowded spaces /on scaffolding

The U.S. Coast Guard has released its 2020 Recreational Boating Statistics Report. From 2019 to 2020, the total number of accidents increased 26.3 percent (4,168 to 5,265), and the number of non-fatal injured victims increased 24.7 percent (2,559 to 3,191). There is evidence that boating activity increased significantly during the pandemic, from reports of increased boat sales, insurance policies taken out, insurance claims, and calls for towing assistance. With the increased exposure (i.e., more boating hours), there was greater risk of deaths, injuries, and accidents. The Coast Guard is analyzing variables associated with boating activity to normalize this accident data.

Alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2020, accounting for over 100 deaths, or 18 percent of total fatalities.

The fatality rate was 6.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels, the highest in the program's recent history. This rate represents a 25 percent increase from last year's fatality rate of 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

Property damage totaled about \$62.5 million.

Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed, and **machinery failure ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.**

**WE SERVE THE BOATING BUSINESS**