

# NEWS

Oregon State Marine Board  
**Boat Oregon**



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## **Boaters Reminded of Duties after an Accident**

The Oregon State Marine Board reminds all boaters to be good neighbors on the water. If your boat's wake swamps or capsizes another person's boat and puts those people in danger, do the right thing and help them out. If you don't, you may face a misdemeanor violation or worse.

"In the past few weeks we've had several reports of motorized boats capsizing or swamping dragon boats and small crew boats in the Portland area," said Randy Henry, Boating Safety Manager for the Marine Board. "According to witness accounts, the boat operators made eye contact with the victims but continued on their way without stopping to assist. This can literally be a criminal offense," Henry added.

Failure to fulfill these duties could result in a Class A misdemeanor citation. In cases where the boat operator leaves the scene of a boat accident where there is personal injury or death, the boater may be charged with a Class C felony.

"If we get a good description of the operator, we will go after them. We have some congested waterways in Oregon now and boaters need to watch out for each other. Those who do, are heroes," said Henry. "Those who don't, create conflict and risk lives. This is no different than a hit-and-run in a motor vehicle – the consequences are worse if you drive away."

The Marine Board contracts with 32 county Sheriff Offices and the Oregon State Police to enforce marine laws.

For more information about the Marine Board and the agency's programs, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/pages/index.aspx>.

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*The Marine Board is funded by registration, title fees and marine fuel taxes paid by motorized boaters. **No lottery, general fund tax dollars or local facility parking fees** are used to support the agency or its programs. Boater-paid fees go back to boaters in the form of boating safety services (on-the-water enforcement, training, and equipment), education/outreach materials, and boating access facility grants (boat ramps, docks, parking, restrooms, and construction and maintenance). The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit program is dedicated funding to pay for border inspection stations, decontamination equipment, inspectors, and signage/outreach materials. The Mandatory Education Program is self-supporting and revenue helps pay for education materials and boater education cards. For more information about the Marine Board and its programs, visit [www.boatoregon.com](http://www.boatoregon.com).*