

BOATING ACCIDENT SCENARIO # 1

Two adult friends went out in a new boat for a day of skiing and cruising in Puget Sound. They consumed quite a bit of beer during the day. The owner of the boat was relatively new to boating and had received no formal training. He bought the high-powered boat at the boat show and did not have many hours operating it yet. They stayed out on the Sound until dark and then headed back to port. Although it was dark, the operator headed in doing about 40 miles per hour. Unfortunately, the boat struck a shoal (shallow spot) and the boat sustained heavy damage. Both occupants were severely injured. One of them died later in the hospital from his injuries.

BOATING ACCIDENT SCENARIO # 2

Four high school friends, two girls and two boys, had gone to their parents vacation cabin on a large lake for a weekend outing. After a full day of activities and drinking, the four decided to take a small rowboat across the lake to another cabin where some other classmates were also having a party.

It was dark, but they could see the lights of their friends' cabin and felt that there would be no problem getting there. The four had not noticed that the wind had picked up, and the lake was quite rough and choppy. They put the rowboat in the water and all climbed aboard, not paying attention to the boat's capacity plate which rated the boat for two persons. They also failed to bring the life jackets down from the cabin. Instead of going back after them, they decided they could swim, so there was no problem. Towards the middle of the lake, the boat flipped over. One student held on to the partially submerged boat, but the other three swam for shore. The person clinging to the boat was rescued after people on shore heard her cries for help. The bodies of the other three were recovered the next day by the sheriff department divers.

BOATING ACCIDENT SCENARIO # 3

A young couple decided to take their new vinyl raft out on a river near their home. They were picnicking by the river and had consumed quite a bit of beer during the day. They put their small raft in the river and went for a ride on the river taking their five-year-old son with them. They had a life jacket in the raft for their son, but he was not wearing it. The two adults had no life jackets. The raft hit a log jam, flipped and dumped all three into the river. The two adults were able to make it to shore. Their son was recovered by searchers one week later. In his jacket pocket was an unopened can of beer. He was dead.