

Do You Know What to Do After a Naples Boat Accident?

by Carmen Dellutri

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's annual boating accident statistics for 2011 revealed that 59 percent of the reportable boating accidents occurred in 10 Florida counties. Collier County was seventh on the list, with 34 accidents, 2 deaths and 24 injuries.

Given the risk of a boat crash on the often-crowded waters in and around Naples, boaters need to know what to do in the event of an accident.

Like a car accident, your first priority should be to render aid to anyone who was injured in the crash. If you believe that another boater was at-fault for the crash, it is also important to collect as much evidence as possible while you are still at the scene.

Key information includes the operator's name, address and boat registration number, as well as the contact information for any witnesses to the crash. If you have a cell phone or camera with you, it is also a good idea to take pictures of the accident scene, the damage caused, and any injuries.

Certain boat accidents must also be reported to authorities under [federal law](#). They include when:

- A person dies
- A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury
- A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid
- Damage to vessels and other property totals \$2,000 or more
- The boat is destroyed.

If you or someone you love has suffered serious injuries in a boat accident, it is also advisable to consult with a Naples personal injury lawyer who can advise you of your legal rights and help you obtain compensation for your medical expenses and other losses.