

Preliminary 2011 Minnesota Boating Accident and Drowning Summary Year End

Prepared by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
Boat & Water Safety Section

Summary of Accidents – Compared to Prior Years - as of 12/31										
Accident Category & Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
See NOTES below										
Boating Fatalities	16	12	15	12	15	14	23	15	17	30
Non-Fatal Boating Accidents See NOTES on Page 3	67*	73	72	77	113	102	93	73	94	135
Non-Boating Drownings	50	34	28	33	26	49	45	30	32	42
Record Summary: 1. Boating Deaths: a) Highest: 57 in both 1961 & 1969, b) Lowest: 12 in 2010, 2008 and 1996 2. Non-Fatal Boating Accidents: a) Highest: 190 in 1989 b) Lowest*: 67 in 2011 3. Non-Boating Drownings: a) Highest: 92 in 1969, b) Lowest: 26 in 2007										

Boating Fatalities

- 1-2. 5/21 – Douglas Co. – Lake Victoria - shortly after 6 pm, a 24-foot inboard-outdrive motorboat with six persons on board was nearing the south end of the lake, attempting to make a turn to continue northbound. The boat did not complete the turn and neared the east shoreline where it first collided with a boat lift canopy. It then continued toward the shoreline, glanced off two trees, proceeding through another boat lift that was partially on shore, and then over a dock. The boat then hit several trees overhanging the lake shore and came to a sudden stop. At this point, three of the occupants were ejected from the boat. A 30-year-old Alexandria man was transported to a local hospital and later died. A 27-year-old Alexandria woman, who was operating the boat, was pronounced dead at the scene. The remaining four occupants sustained various injuries. The accident was investigated by the sheriff's office, with reconstruction assistance from the MN State Patrol. (*PFD's worn – No*).
3. 5/29 – St. Louis Co. – Lake Vermilion - seven persons were on board a 14-foot, 40 hp outboard boat, when it apparently swamped and sank rapidly around 3 am. A nearby resort owner heard voices from the lake, got dressed and used his boat to rescue four victims from the water. Two others made it to shore on their own, but a 29-year-old Virginia, MN man drowned. The sheriff's department was able to recover the victim from 21 feet of water at 6:40am on the same day. The boat was finally removed from the bottom around 8 pm on the 30th (*PFD's worn – No*).
4. 6/9 – Cook Co. – Swan Lake - a 23-year-old Janesville, Wisconsin man drowned in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, after leaving his canoe sometime after 7 pm (when he was last seen). By 9 pm relatives began looking for him and found his empty canoe with 4 inches of water, a tackle box, landing net and life jacket in the craft. The man and his fishing pole were missing. They looked for him and then paddled to a location around midnight where they could contact the sheriff's office. A search was started with assistance from numerous agencies. The search operation, using side-scan sonar, was able to locate the body in about 90 feet of water on June 12th. Weather and problems with an underwater ROV became an issue. On June 16th a search team was flown in again by float plane, and an inflatable boat (to serve as a platform for the sonar & underwater ROV) was airlifted to the lake by helicopter. The victim was recovered around 5:30 pm the same day in about 90 feet of water about 500 feet from shore (*PFD worn – No*).
5. 6/25 – Renville Co. - Hawk Creek - a 55-year-old Newhall, Iowa woman drowned after her kayak overturned around 6 pm. She was paddling with four other kayakers when her kayak capsized in fast current. She and her kayak were swept downstream and pinned against tree branches that were lodged in the river. Her fellow kayakers tried everything they could to extricate her from her predicament, but to no avail. Help was summoned just after 6 pm and her body was recovered from the water around 8 pm. (*PFD (& wet suit) worn – Yes*).
6. 7/3 – Becker Co. - Long Lake - a 47-year-old Detroit Lakes man jumped off the bow of a pontoon boat he was operating, and was then struck by the propeller. Apparently the victim had not taken the motor out of gear before leaving the helm. He and three others on board were swimming from the craft. The accident occurred around 7:30 pm; help was summoned, arriving in about 10-15 minutes. Search operations started immediately upon arrival, but darkness, a 42-foot water depth and low-visibility hampered efforts by divers. The operation continued on the 4th and on the 5th the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office used their towed-array side scan sonar. The body was recovered in 34-feet of water around 9:40 am on the 5th (*PFD worn – No*).

7. 7/9 - Lake Co. – Grass Lake - a 50-year-old Ely man drowned after falling out of his canoe. He and his wife were fishing and had their dog along as well. He apparently caught a fish and while he was reeling it in the dog became excited, which started the canoe rocking, causing the victim to fall overboard. Help was summoned around 3:50 pm. Searchers found his fishing rod and reel around 6:20 pm and his body was recovered around 7:50 pm (*PFD worn – No*)
8. 7/18 – Nobles Co. – Lake Okabena – a 20-year-old Sioux Falls, SD woman died when a personal watercraft struck the 16-foot jet drive boat in which she was a passenger. The occupants of both craft knew each other. Around 5:30 pm the personal watercraft, which was operating in close proximity to the jet-drive boat, struck that boat on the port (left) side and went over the top. The personal watercraft hit the one victim who was sitting in the port rear seat of the craft and she wound up on the deck (floor) behind the operator's position. Another female passenger was struck, suffering serious injuries and was thrown into the water near the boat. She was pulled from the water and eventually taken, first to a Worthington hospital, and then airlifted to Sioux Falls. Bystanders assisted in calling for help and taking care of the victims, until first responders were dispatched around 5:43 pm, and arrived shortly thereafter. (*PFDs worn – jet-drive boat – No / personal watercraft – Yes*)
9. 7/23-24 – Itasca Co. - Jack the Horse Lake - a 56-year old Coon Rapids man went out in a canoe about 8 pm Sat evening (23rd). The resort owner called the sheriff's office about 6:45 pm Sunday, after the subject did not pick up his rental boat as scheduled. Upon searching, a tackle box, canoe, paddle, throwable PFD, and other items were located. His body was recovered in 37 feet of water at 8 pm on 7/27. (*PFD worn – No*)
- 10-11. 7/26 – Cass Co. – Cass Lake - emergency personnel responded to a call about 7 pm regarding an empty 16-foot boat with a tiller-steered 40 hp outboard circling on the Cass Lake, The two occupants went out fishing around 6:45 pm and no one witnessed the accident. It is presumed that they were ejected overboard at some point Responders were able to stop the boat and set buoys to mark the area. The body of a 70-year-old Denmar, Wisconsin man was recovered from 5 feet of water around 8:45 pm. The other occupant of the boat, a 52-year-old Sheboygan, Wisconsin man was recovered from 40 feet of water around 11:30 am on July 28th. It was in the same area where the boat was found circling, (*PFDs worn – No.*)
12. 7/26 – Kandiyohi Co. - Bass Lake - a 45-year-old Kandiyohi man drowned just after 7:20 pm, while trying to save his 6-year-old son. The boy had fallen off the family's pontoon boat and his dad jumped into the water after him. The boy was able to make it safely to shore and contacted his mother, but the father went under and never resurfaced. Emergency crews arrived to search and found him in eight feet of water around 7:45 pm. He was pronounced dead at the scene. (*PFD's worn – No*).
13. 8/11 – Koochiching Co. - Rainy Lake - a 49-year-old International Falls man was ejected from his 19-foot outboard boat into the water around 10 pm. The boat first struck a rock wall on shore, resulting in the ejection of the operator. After entering the water he was subsequently struck by the boat propeller, severing his arm. Bystanders were able to contact help, and retrieve a 34-year old injured passenger in the boat. That victim was taken to an International Falls hospital. A search was conducted for the ejected operator, and his body was recovered from the lake that same evening. (*PFD's worn – No.*).
14. 9/4 – Stevens Co. – Long Lake – a 50-year-old Hancock man drowned after the 15-foot outboard boat he was in swamped and then capsized. There were also 5 additional persons and 2 dogs in the boat that also entered the water and 911 was called around 10:20 pm. Five victims managed to swim to shore, or stay afloat by hanging on to the capsized craft. The victim disappeared while trying to make shore, and with assistance from three other counties, his body was recovered from 11 feet of water around 4 pm on September 5th. (*PFD's worn – No.*)
15. 10/1 – Itasca Co. – Winnibigoshish Lake – a 44-year old Cass Lake man drowned when the canoe he and another person were in, netting fish, swamped about 8 am. A 911 call was received around 1:10 pm and the victim was recovered on shore around 2:10 pm, near the point where the canoe swamped. (*PFD worn – No.*)
16. 10/7 – Aitkin Co. – Mille Lacs Lake – a 50-year-old Marine on the St Croix man, along with other kayakers, were attempting to travel from Cove Bay to Malmo (appx. 16 miles) on a 21-foot kayak. The wind was blowing about 40 mph and there were very large waves on the 132,000 acre lake. When the victim fell off his kayak, around 4:30 pm, his tether line came loose and the craft rapidly drifted away. Another kayaker attempted to bring him on his boat, but it capsized as well. A decision was made to have the victim remain in the water and the companion would go to shore and summon help. Search efforts began about 5 -5:30 pm with assistance of a State Patrol aircraft, Mille Lacs Co. and DNR officers. Operations were called off when it became too dark to see, the waves were increasing in size and a storm was approaching. The search resumed the next morning when conditions had improved and the kayaker's body was recovered by Mille Lacs County around 7:45- 8 am, by Agate Bay Reef. The victim had a full wet suit on and was wearing lifejacket. (*PFD's worn – Yes.*)

Non-Fatal Boating Accidents (See NOTES)

Capsizing	7
Collision w / fixed/floating object	4
Collision w / another watercraft	24
Collision w / underwater object	3
Collision w/ swimmer	0
Fall in boat	1
Fall overboard	5
Fire/Explosion	4
Grounding / Hitting Bottom	0
Struck by Propeller	2
Sinking / Flooding / Swamping	2
Water skiing, wake boarding or tubing	12
Other	3
Total Non-Fatal Boating Accidents	67

NOTES:

1. Reportable non-fatal boating accidents are those where there was: a) at least \$2,000 in property damage, or b) an injury beyond first aid.
2. Reportability threshold for property damage was raised from \$500 to \$2,000 effective in 2003 to match Coast Guard standard.

Non- Boating Drownings

1. 3/12 – Hennepin Co. – Condominium hot tub pool – a two-year-old Minneapolis boy, whose family was visiting, entered the water somehow during the early afternoon. His father found him unconscious in three feet of water around 2:30 pm. They pulled him out, started CPR and summoned help. He was rushed first to an Edina hospital, and then transferred to Minneapolis medical center, where he died early in the morning on 3/13.
2. 4/2 – Yellow Medicine Co. – Minn. River backwater – a 27-year-old man likely entered the water sometime after 2 am on April 2nd. He rode back part of the way from Montevideo to Granite Falls in a car with friends, but then exited the vehicle. The last contact he had was a cell phone call to his sister after 2 am. At that time he was on foot on Highway 212. The sister went to look in her car, but could not find him. She contacted the sheriff's office at about 2 pm on the 2nd and an extensive search was started. A number of state and local agencies participated in a land, water and air operation, but to no avail. On October 29th the sheriff's office was contacted by a farmer around 4:35 pm. He had found human remains near the area where the victim disappeared in April. Subsequent work by the medical examiner confirmed that the remains were those of the victim.
3. 4/10 – Beltrami Co. – Red Lake – a 59-year-old Red Lake man apparently drowned after his snowmobile went into open water around 2 pm in the "narrows" area between the upper and lower lake. He was ice fishing and the weather was rainy, foggy and windy. The victim then appeared to lose direction and went into open water. He attempted to climb back out, but the deteriorating ice apparently could not support him. Recovery occurred around 11 am on the 11th.
4. 4/11 – Anoka Co. – Pond – The body of a 77-year-old Fridley man was spotted by hikers around 10:10 am. The victim was floating in the Springbrook Nature Center pond, about 15 feet off the boardwalk and in three feet of water. He had left home for a walk around 8:45 am, and apparently entered the water sometime between then and when he was spotted by the hikers. His body was recovered by divers around 1:35 pm.
5. 4/16 – Wright Co. – Miss. River – A 52-year-old Otsego man drowned after somehow entering the river. He was staying with relatives in a home close to the Mississippi. They think he left that home around 3 am. He was reported missing around 6 pm that same day. After an extensive search, his body was recovered almost six miles downstream around 11 am on April 21st.
- 6.. 5/6 – Cass Co. – Upper Gull Lake – a 60-year-old Lake Shore man was working on his dock and somehow entered the water. The victim was observed around 1 pm putting his dock in the water. Around 3:50 pm, a lake resident from the other side of the channel was operating his boat near the victim's dock, when he noticed a boot sticking out of the water. He went over to the boot and was going to pick it up when he realized it was attached to the chest waders being worn by the victim. The neighbor then called 911. Then he proceeded to grasp the boot and steer his boat back to the victim's dock. When first responders arrived he was out of the water, but there was no sign of life.
7. 5/7 – Hennepin Co. – Cedar Lake – a 52-year-old Foley woman apparently drowned after somehow entering the water on this Minneapolis lake. Her body was spotted floating by an off-duty firefighter at 8:54am. Information from a missing persons report filed the prior evening assisted in identifying her.
8. 5/20 (recovery date) – Anoka Co. – Miss. River – The body of a 21-year-old Minneapolis man was spotted in the water near I-694 and East River Road and brought to shore by a fire dept boat. The sheriff's office received the call around 2:30 pm and also responded to the scene. It is unknown how and when the victim entered the water.

9. 5/25 – Hennepin Co. – Home hot tub – a 31-year-old Mound man was found just before 4:30 pm, face down in a home hot tub. He was last seen around 9 am that same day.
10. 6/5 – Hennepin Co. – Outdoor home pool – a 71-year-old Tonka Bay man was found by his wife on the bottom of the pool about 4:45 pm. He was then pulled out by his wife and neighbors. Paramedics were able to get a pulse and he was then taken to a hospital, where he passed away at 8:30 pm on June 13.
11. 6/25-26 – Clay Co. – Wolverton Creek – a 49-year-old Moorhead man drowned after somehow entering the creek. Nearby residents spotted the man fishing around 6 pm on 6/25. On 6/26, Clay Co. was contacted around 5:40 pm, since residents noted his truck with the radio on was still in the same spot. His body was recovered around 8 pm on the same day.
12. 6/28-7/3 - Ramsey Co. – Miss. River - a 44-year-old Port Isabel, Texas man drowned after apparently falling into the river off a St. Paul dock while hooking up a fresh water supply hose to a houseboat. He was last seen on his moored houseboat on June 28th and then reported missing. His body was found on 7/3 in a barge mooring area, and authorities were contacted around 5:50 pm.
13. 7/1 – Hennepin Co. – Miss. River - a 19-year-old Boise, Idaho woman drowned after attempting to rescue her dog from the river in Minneapolis around 6:50 pm. Police had been searching for her since she was last seen near the Hennepin Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis. She was swept through both St. Anthony Falls spillways. Her body was recovered by Ramsey Co. on July 5th around 6:45 am, near Lock & Dam #1.
14. 7/3 – Hubbard Co. – Fish Hook Lake - a 79-year-old Park Rapids man drowned while swimming laps. His children noticed him missing around 7:05 pm and swam out about 40 yards to pull him ashore. CPR was started and help summoned. He was resuscitated and airlifted to a Fargo hospital, where he passed away
15. 7/4 – Pine Co. – Willow River - a 46-year-old Missouri man apparently drowned around 4:40 pm after entering the river in attempt to rescue his 30-year-old brother. The younger brother was swimming and then was swept over the 20-foot high Willow River Dam. The river was high and the current strong. The 30-year-old surfaced downstream. He was eventually rescued by family members, but the older brother apparently went over the dam, never resurfaced and drowned. The 46-year-old brother's body was recovered downstream of the dam around 12:30 pm on July 7th.
16. 7/5 –Washington Co. – Indoor public pool – an 84-year-old Bayport man drowned while swimming laps at the pool located in Stillwater. He was spotted on the bottom in 4 feet of water, around 2:45 pm. He was then pulled from the water, resuscitation started and then taken to a Stillwater hospital where he was pronounced dead.
17. 7/6 – Sherburne Co. – Outdoor home pool – a 5-year-old Elk River girl was using the pool with other adults and children around 4:30 pm. She asked to have her life jacket taken off by one of the adults. About 5-10 minutes later they noticed she was missing and started to search for her. They found her on the bottom of the deep end of the pool, pulled her out and started CPR. Paramedics took over and had her airlifted to a Mpls. hospital, where she gained a faint pulse, but then passed away.
18. 7/9 – Ramsey Co. – Miss. River – a 22-year-old Minneapolis man apparently drowned, after entering the river with friends to go swimming, near Raspberry Island in St. Paul. The current swept him away. Help was summoned around 11:50 pm. Search operations occurred all day on the 10th. His body surfaced and was recovered around 8:45 am on July 12th, just down river from the Lafayette Bridge.
19. 7/13 – Hennepin Co. – Indoor apartment pool – a 50 year old man drowned in the pool at his Minneapolis apartment complex. He was trying to hold his breath underwater in the deep (9-foot) area of the pool. He did it once and surfaced, assuring witnesses he was OK. On the next try, around 1:50 pm, he did not resurface and was pulled off the bottom by witnesses after about 15 minutes. Help was summoned and CPR commenced. He was then transported to a hospital, and pronounced dead.
20. 7/14- Hennepin Co. – Pond – a 72-year old Minneapolis woman was found around 11:25 am, by a mosquito control worker. She was face down in a drainage pond located in Brooklyn Park. She may have fallen down a steep bank that was next to a public sidewalk.
21. 7/17- Blue Earth Co. – Indoor hotel pool - 71-year old Pelican Rapids man drowned in a Mankato hotel pool. He was last seen alive in the hotel hot tub around 5:40 pm. Shortly after 6 pm, he was spotted by witnesses, lying face-down in the hotel pool at a water depth of about 3 feet. They pulled him from the pool, called for help at 6:07 pm and started CPR. Police arrived at 6:09 pm and continued CPR until EMS personnel took over. They pronounced him dead at 6:17 pm
22. 7/18 – Stearns Co. – Warner Lake – a 4-year-old St. Cloud girl was with her family at Warner Lake Park Beach. She had a life jacket on most of the day, but she or someone else removed it. Around 7:30 pm she went missing, and since the beach is unguarded, a bystander search was started. Assistance was summoned around 7:40 pm and another beach user found her in 5 feet of water about 30 feet from the shore. The victim was brought to shore

and CPR was started. Upon arrival emergency personnel took over CPR and the girl was airlifted to a St. Cloud hospital, but to no avail.

23. 7/19 – Hennepin Co. – Wirth Lake – a 17-year-old Minneapolis boy and three friends went to Wirth Beach about 3:30 pm to swim. The swimming beach was closed for the summer, and marked off due to cleanup operations after the May 22nd tornado that went through this area. Three of the four in the group decided to swim across the lake anyway. Just as they passed the marked swim area the victim went under about 3:40 pm. The friends tried to rescue him, but to no avail. Help was summoned and his body was located in 7 feet of water around 6:20 pm.
24. 7/20 – Stearns Co. – Rice Lake – a 73-year-old Paynesville man drowned after somehow entering the water between his boat lift and pontoon boat. It was unwitnessed and occurred sometime in the afternoon. First responders found him face down in the water at 6:26 pm.
25. 7/21 – Carlton Co. – City swimming pond – a 6-year-old Duluth boy, on a field trip with 32 children and four chaperons, drowned in an artificial sand- bottomed pond. The boy was paired up with a friend and when the call came for the group to go home, the victim was missing. Lifeguards found him in the shallow end of the pool (3 feet deep) near a water slide and noted a faint pulse. Shortly before 1:30 pm they back-boarded him, pulled him out and started CPR. First responders arrived and the boy was rushed to a Cloquet hospital, where he died.
26. 7/21 – Ramsey Co. – Apartment bath tub – a 37-year-old Shoreview woman drowned in her bathtub sometime after 2 pm. She apparently started the bath water and then passed out. The overflow flooded out lower apartments and apartment care-takers responded only to find her underwater in the tub. They called 911 around 8:45 pm.
27. 7/24 – Meeker Co. – Big Swan Lake/Collinwood Creek – a 56-year-old Annandale man drowned while fishing from shore adjacent to the lake outlet and County Highway 21. He and his brother were fishing on the south side of the highway, when his brother decided to try the north side. The brother fished for about 15 minutes and then went to see how the victim was doing. He was not there. Apparently due to very fast current through the channel and culvert, the victim entered the water somehow and was pulled through the culvert and into Collinwood Creek. The brother eventually found him 100 yards downstream in the creek and called for help around 11:55 am. Rescue squad members pulled the victim out of the creek and resuscitation efforts were started by the airlift helicopter crew, but to no avail. He was pronounced dead around 12:50 pm.
28. 7/24 – Hennepin Co. – Indoor hotel pool - a 21-year-old Texas man drowned while swimming with his family in a Minneapolis hotel. He entered the deep end of the pool just before 6 pm started bobbing up and down, then gasped for air and went limp. His relatives tried to get him out of the water, but they were unsuccessful. Hotel staff arrived and pulled him out of the water and started CPR. Firefighters arrived and continued CPR, and he was rushed to a Minneapolis hospital, where he was pronounced dead.
29. 7/27 – Winona Co. – Miss. River – a 28-year-old Winona woman apparently entered the water somehow and drowned. She had been reported missing. Her body was discovered by a citizen on August 7th at 2:15 pm. It was underneath a pontoon boat at a campground dock.
30. 7/27 – Hennepin Co. – Miss. River – the body of a 50-year-old Minneapolis man was spotted in the water around 9:45 pm. He was found near a debris strainer on the Upper St. Anthony Falls Dam. There was no indication as to how or when he may have entered the river.
31. 7/29 – St. Louis Co. – Island Lake - a 16-year-old rural Duluth boy was swinging on a rope swing when he fell, hit his head on a boat and went under in 15 feet of water. Bystanders tried to locate him in the water, but had no luck. First responders were called about 4:50 pm and had to be ferried to the scene by boaters. The rescue effort turned into a recovery effort around 6 pm, with the use of an underwater remotely-operated vehicle (ROV). The body was recovered about 7:45 pm.
32. 7/30 – Crow Wing Co. – Lower Whitefish Lake- a 26-year-old St. Louis Park man apparently drowned while he and a number of others were swimming off a pontoon boat. After stopping the boat around 8 pm, a number of the occupants jumped into the water. The victim did not resurface, however. His body was recovered in 94 feet of water around 10 am on 7/31.
33. 7/30 – Hennepin Co. – Elm Creek Park Swimming Pond - a 38-year-old Maryland man apparently started to struggle around 7:30 pm while swimming with family members. Lifeguards spotted him in trouble and pulled him ashore. He became unconscious while being pulled to shore. Assistance was summoned and CPR was started on shore. Paramedics took over CPR and he was declared dead at the scene.
34. 7/30 – Hennepin Co. – Lake Minnetonka – a 44-year-old Minneapolis man struggled first and then went under about 7:40 pm, while swimming out 25 feet out, and then 25 feet back from a friend's personal watercraft. Witnesses threw both a life jacket and boat fender to him and then jumped into the water in an attempt to help. He was recovered on 8/3 at 6:15 pm in 70 feet of water in Lower Lake North.

35. 7/31 – Dakota Co. – Crystal Lake – The body of a 24-year-old Bloomington woman was discovered by a boater about 5:30 am, floating face down near the boat access located in Burnsville. It is not known how or when she entered the water.
36. 8/2 – St. Louis Co. – Amity Creek / Lester River- a 13 year old Duluth boy entered the rain-swollen stream around 4 pm in an area known as “The Deepes.” As soon as the victim was in the water the very strong currents became a factor and he struggled. His companion then went in to help him and he struggled as well. The victim then disappeared, and the companion, who managed to stay on top of the water, made it to shore. A search operation was started and involved local, state & federal agencies. The victim was discovered on August 7th in Lake Superior by a boater about 1:40 pm. He was located approximately 2 miles northeast of the mouth of the river, and about ¼ mile out in the lake.
37. 8/5 – Wright Co. – Miss. River - a 28-year-old Monticello man drowned after falling off a float tube, about 6:15 pm. He and another man were attempting to float down the river from Monticello to Elk River. The river was high and current was strong (3-5mph). A number of local and state agencies responded. The search was called off around 8:45 pm due to a thunderstorm in the area. The search operation continued and the victim was finally found across the river from the Otsego City Park (Appx. River Mile 885) on 8/18 around 2:20 pm.
38. 8/10 - Chippewa Co. – Minnesota River – a 50-year-old Harris man fell off a dam into the river and apparently drowned. He was working for a power company clearing debris from a gate on the Minnesota Falls Dam, located near the city of Granite Falls. Another employee in a backhoe on shore was working with him on the project. That worker turned his bucket away to drop a load of debris and when he swung back, just before 1 pm, he noticed that the victim was missing. Help was summoned and first responders found his life jacket about 100 yards downstream. The river was a few feet below flood stage and the current was fast. A number of agencies participated in the recovery operation. His body was finally located about 1 pm about a half mile downstream on August 12th and recovered.
39. 8/13 – Hennepin Co. – Outdoor home pool – a 5-year-old Elko-New Market girl drowned in a backyard pool in Richfield. She was visiting the home with her mother and the mother’s nephew. The mother was in the house and the daughter and nephew were outside. The mother went looking for her and found her face up and unresponsive in the pool around 12:45 pm. She was pulled from the pool, assistance was summoned and CPR started by first responders. The girl died in a Minneapolis hospital the next day.
- 40-41. 8/15 - Hennepin Co. – Outdoor apartment pool – a 9-year-old Plymouth girl and her 14-year-old sister were in the pool at a Plymouth apartment complex when the 9-year-old appeared to be in trouble. A 26-year-old man who lived in the apartment complex jumped in to save the victim. They both went under around 4:20 pm and were pulled out by the caretaker, who started CPR and called for help. Both victims were taken to a Robbinsdale hospital where they were pronounced dead.
42. 8/28 – Isanti Co. – Home bath tub – a 57-year-old Braham man, living in a group home, apparently drowned after being left in a tub while the attendant went to answer the phone. Upon her return, she pulled the victim out of the water and started CPR. He was rushed to a hospital where he died.
43. 9/2 – Hennepin Co. - Apartment pool – a 14-year-old Brooklyn Center girl drowned while swimming with her two 10-year-old sisters in an apartment complex swimming pool. Sometime just before 6:30 pm she was seen struggling in the deep end of the pool. Her sisters ran for help and a bystander was able to pull her out of the pool and start CPR. That was continued when police and paramedics arrived. She was rushed to a Robbinsdale hospital where she was pronounced dead around 7:10 pm.
44. 9/12 – Carlton Co. – St. Louis River – a 24-year-old Duluth man was swimming with another person when he attempted to cross the river. The area is dangerous for swimming due to the current and turbid water, and warnings are posted. He struggled and the person he was swimming with attempted to help him, but he was pulling her under. She was able to break free, make shore and call 911 at 4:47pm. He disappeared, however, and a multi-agency response ensued. The power company also shut down a portion of the flow through the nearby dam to make the search operation easier. The victim’s body was located by divers in 8-10 feet of water, 200 feet from the Munger Trail, around 8:45pm.
45. 9/21 – Scott Co. - Hotel hot tub - a 28-year-old man drowned in a Shakopee hotel sometime between 9:40pm and 11:59pm. He contacted his mother by phone at the earlier hour to say that he was going to the tub. Just before midnight, a hotel employee noticed him face –down in the tub and tried to pull him out, but to no avail. She then called 911 and emergency responders arrived and started CPR. They rushed him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.
46. 9/24-27 – Otter Tail Co. – Farm pond – On 9/27, about 11:30 am, the sheriff’s office received a call from the victim’s neighbor saying he found the 71-year-old victim’s body floating face up on a farm pond/slough near Fergus Falls. The victim was apparently working on fencing about 25 feet from shore. The sheriff’s office and the local fire department responded. Fire fighters had to use wire cutters to disengage his clothing from the barb wire. It is unknown as to when the drowning actually occurred.

47. 10/3 – Itasca Co. – Dixon Lake – an 82-year-old Squaw Lake man drowned as he was working near his dock (in hip waders) on an irrigation system. His wife found him in two feet of water, face down, around 3 pm. He was last seen around noon, when he told her he was going to remove the irrigation system from the lake. Water temperature was 60 degrees. The sheriff's dept, DNR officers and tribal officers all responded to the scene.
48. 10/25 – Hennepin Co. – Pond – an 84-year-old Bloomington woman drowned near the shore of a pond in that city. She was found floating face-down in the pond, and help was summoned by phone just before 7pm. Both the police department and sheriff's office responded. Her body was removed from the water at 8:11 pm. Estimated time of entry was 6:40 pm.
49. 10/30 – Olmsted Co. – Bear Creek – a 45-year-old Rochester woman apparently entered the creek somehow in the early morning hours of Oct 30th. She was seen on a security camera of nearby convenience store at 2 am and entered the water sometime between 2 am, and 9:15 am, when the sheriff's dive team found her body while they were on a completely different case.
50. 11/12 – Hennepin Co. - Home bath tub – a 42-year-old Rogers man drowned in his apartment bathtub. A call from another resident, regarding a water leak, resulted in a maintenance worker finding the victim submerged in the tub with the water still running around 12:20 pm. The worker then called 911.