

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
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<b>Watercraft Accident Investigations</b>		



## I. Definition

### A. Public waterways

City-controlled waters that can include creeks, rivers, reservoirs, quarries, lakes, and streams.

## II. Policy Statements

- A. Sworn personnel shall either complete or advise the owner/operator of each vessel to complete the U.S. Coast Guard CG-3865 form for all watercraft accidents resulting in the loss of life, personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid, damage to property in excess of **\$1,000**, and/or physical damage or other incident resulting in the total loss of a vessel and submit it to their state reporting authority.
- B. Sworn personnel shall not take a report when persons fall overboard or capsize their watercraft unless there is property damage, injury, or death.
- C. Should a watercraft be used to intentionally cause injury to a person or damage to property, sworn personnel shall complete the appropriate incident report and, if necessary, notify the appropriate investigative unit.
- D. If available, a Marine Park officer shall be dispatched to all accident scenes on any City controlled waterway.

## III. Procedures

### A. Responding Personnel

1. Request any necessary emergency response services.
2. If injuries are involved, notify the precinct supervisor.
3. If fatalities or possible fatalities are involved:
  - a. To the extent possible, preserve the scene and evidence.
  - b. Notify the Accident Investigation Unit and the Ohio State Division of Parks & Watercraft.
  - c. As necessary, notify the Dive Team Administration Sergeant or Dive Master.
4. If a boat is submerged:
  - a. To the extent possible, preserve the scene.
  - b. Notify the Dive Team Administration Sergeant or Dive Master.