

A. **PURPOSE.** To establish the response and outline specific responsibilities to incidents involving water and boating accidents within the city of Grand Rapids

B. **DEFINITIONS**

1. *Water.* Any river, stream, creek, ditch, canal, gravel pit, public, or private pool, public or private pond, etc.
2. *Water Accident.* Any drowning, near-drowning, or any serious injury incurred in the waters of this state when a boat is **not** directly involved.
3. *Boating Accident.* Incident that involves a boat or its equipment, on the water, in which:
 - a. A person dies
 - b. A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury.
 - c. A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid.
 - d. Damage to the vessel and other property that is \$2,000 or more.
 - e. Includes electrical shock, and carbon monoxide poisoning.

C. **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES – WATER ACCIDENTS**

1. The Grand Rapids Fire Department shall:
 - a. Initially respond to a water rescue emergency in a combined effort with the Police Department.
 - b. Supply specialized water rescue equipment and/or personnel.
 - c. Request body recovery operations, if necessary, from the Kent County Sheriff's Department.
2. The Kent County Sheriff's Department shall:
 - a. Supply all specialized body recovery personnel, boats and equipment.

- b. Complete recovery (dragging and diving) operations.
3. The Grand Rapids Police Department shall supply:
 - a. Shore personnel to take care of the complaint, family, witnesses, found property, and body upon recovery.
 - b. One-half of the total personnel needed during dragging operations.
 - c. All personnel needed for foot search operations along the bank.
 - d. Any additional personnel required to maintain scene security.
4. Responding Grand Rapids officer shall complete an Incident and Water Accident Report then forward them to the Traffic Unit.
5. Detective Unit personnel shall complete all follow up investigations.
6. Physicians have the responsibility, by law, to report serious water injuries to the police.
7. Traffic Unit will forward copies of the reports to the Kent County Sheriff Department Marine Unit.

D. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES – BOATING ACCIDENTS

1. A vessel operator is responsible for reporting accidents to police.
2. The first responding officer shall:
 - a. Complete both an incident report and “Official Boating Accident Report.”
 - b. Forward the “Official Boating Accident Report” to the Traffic Unit.
3. Traffic Unit Personnel shall:
 - a. Complete all follow-up investigations.

- b. Forward the “Official Boating Accident Report” to the Michigan DNR, Kent County Sheriff Department Marine Unit, and the Grand Rapids City Attorney, retaining a copy for records.
- E. The Watch Commander shall maintain a supply of “Official Boating Accident Report” and “Official Water Accident Report” forms.