Marine incident reporting requirements in NSW

- Australian Sailing club conference, 7 May 2022

- Vanessa Dudley, NSW Maritime Transport for NSW

- nsw.gov.au

NSW GOVERNMENT Australian Sailing |

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Marine incidents

- **Examples include:**
- When a person is killed or injured on a vessel, falls overboard or is hit by a vessel or its propeller
- When a vessel sinks, capsizes, runs aground or floods, collides with another vessel or object, or has a fire or explosion on board
- When a vessel causes damage to the environment.
- **If you're involved in a marine incident:**
- Stop your vessel and give as much help as possible
- Alert search and rescue services if you need help
- Comply with reporting requirements.

Who must report a marine incident

- **Skippers / Owners**

- Masters (skippers) of vessels – and owners if they are aware of the incident – must provide a report to Transport for NSW if involved in a marine incident.

- *Section 99 of the Maritime Safety Act 1998 and Section 139 of the Marine Safety Regulation 2016*

- **Clubs**

- If the incident involves vessels in a race or regatta, the conducting club must meet the reporting conditions of the Sailing Event Notification System or Aquatic Licence.

When to report an incident

- The skipper of each vessel involved must submit a Vessel Incident Report if:

- A person is killed or injured*

- or

- There is more than $5000 worth of damage to a vessel or other property

- or

- There is damage or a risk of damage to the environment.

- Reportable injuries*:

- Require more than first aid

- Require further qualified medical attention – for example, ambulance attending, visit to hospital emergency department or local GP for treatment.
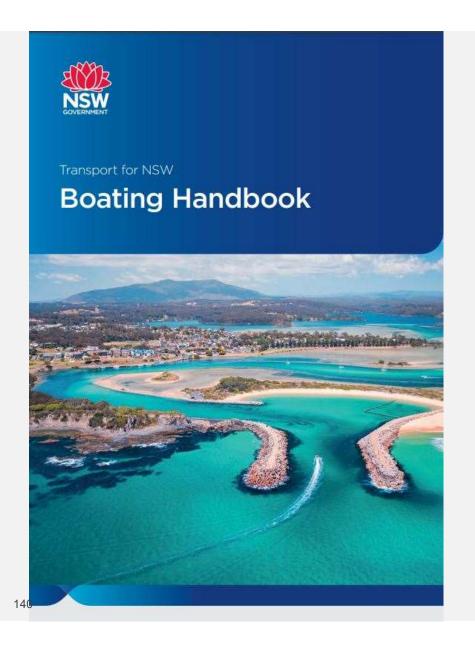
How to report

- Submit a Vessel Incident Report (VIR) to Transport for NSW

- VIR forms are available:

- Online at https://vir.connect.rms.nsw.gov.au/

- Or download from **service.nsw.gov.au**

- In print from Service NSW offices and police stations.

- You must submit the report within 24 hours.

Why to report a marine incident

- Make NSW waterways safer for everyone

- Information gathered during investigations is used by the NSW government to:

- Develop safety strategies to help prevent death, injury and property damage on the water

- Maintain the safety and amenity of the marine environment

- Develop education and compliance programs

- Guide legislative reform.

- Not reporting when required is an offence and fines may apply.

More information

- The Boating Handbook covers the main rules for using NSW waterways. These include:

- Skipper responsibility

- Proper lookout

- Safe speed

- Overtaking

- Vessels with limited manoeuvrability.

- See 'Boating Handbook' at **nsw.gov.au**