



Water Sports Safety

Every year there are numerous accidents while boating on the water during what should have been enjoyable fun filled times. One of the most common accidents, and deadliest, are the rare occurrences of Man Over Board (MOB). *Unless the skipper of the boat acts quickly, and decisively, the MOB may be lost.* MOB fatalities make up 24 percent of all boating deaths. The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water has studied MOB and discovered the majority of cases do not involve bad weather, rough seas, night time sailing, or detrimental conditions. A quote¹ from Chris Edmonston, president of the BoatUS Foundation in the BoatUS magazine states, "Most happen on relatively calm waters, on a small boat that's not going very fast, Victims tend to be men. Fishing is a prime activity, and in many cases, alcohol is involved."

Some key statistics from many studies on MOB accidents include¹,

- 24% were characterized as "falls overboard."
- 24% died at night, and 76% died during the day
- 82% were on a boat less than 22 feet long
- 63% didn't know how to swim.
- 8% of non-swimmers were wearing a life jacket
- 80% of drowning victims were not wearing a lifevest
- 90% occurred in calm water conditions
- 85% were men
- 41% occurred during fishing outings

As noted from the United States Power Squadron (USPS)² boating accident statistics show that drowning is the single biggest cause of death in recreational boating accidents, accounting for more than 70% of boating deaths. The majority were the result of a MOB accident, and as noted most of these occurred without the use of a life vest. Once in the water it is too late to grab a life vest.

The SeaMe® Safety Tag

The SeaMe® Tag is a multi-sensor personal safety tag and uses advanced technology to help keep users safe on the water. It is small, light, convenient, and extremely easy to use. The only requirement is that you wear it!

[1] "Man Overboard Rescue for Powerboats," BoatUS Magazine, October, 2012
<http://www.boatus.com/magazine/2012/October/foundation-how-to-prepare-for-a-man-overboard.asp>

[2] "The Other 20% -- When Wearing a Life Jacket Is Not Enough," CDR Kim Pickens, USCGRO BoatSmart Project Officer
http://www.usps.org/eddept/files/other_20_handout.pdf

The SeaMe® Tag includes a gyro, three axis accelerometer, temperature, pressure, and barometric sensors, a CO2 and gas detector, and a wireless transceiver for connection to SmartPhones and/or wireless systems on boats. A high intensity LED strobe is also available for signaling others of the user's distress at night.

Operation of the SeaMe® Tag is simple, once configured from the BeaconWatch® App, a simple press of the multifunction button on the tag is the only user operation required. In case the wearer becomes in distress, such as a MOB accident, the tag operates automatically by detecting that the wearer has fallen in the water using the included sensors. Others on the boat will be quickly informed of the wearer's distress so that assistance can be made immediately. The tag's sensors also help remotely determine a MOB wearer's physical condition, for example if they are in danger of hypothermia. The tag also constantly monitors the environment, if unsafe CO2 levels are detected the linked BeaconWatch app will alert everyone on the boat of the emergency. To ensure simple operation of the SeaMe® Tag it will use a non-replaceable battery that has at least a three-year life. Also the tag will not have a power switch, it will always be on to use it only requires that it be worn by the user.

The SeaMe® Tag will be available in four colors, besides providing an attractive appearance for the user the color will allow the BeaconWatch app to easily associate the user with their unique tag.

BeaconWatch® App

The BeaconWatch® App will provide other safety and convenience related features as well. For example it will support the tracking of the user's location on the boat in a constantly updated real-time map. It also provides constant monitoring of the health of SeaMe Tags that are worn including their remaining battery life, and condition. The app will be multi-functional and will support other products from BeaconWatch® as they become available!