

## 2007 Drowning Statistics

- Northern Saskatchewan was the site of 13 of the province's 21 drowning accidents last year.
- The Saskatoon and La Ronge areas were each the site of six drowning accidents, and Prince Albert was the site of one drowning. In Southern Saskatchewan, the areas of Regina and Moose Jaw each had one drowning incident, and the Yorkton and Estevan areas were each the site of three accidents.
- Of the nine incidents where lifejackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs) were recommended to be worn, only one victim wore a lifejacket. However, the device was worn improperly.
- Alcohol was confirmed to have been a contributing factor in 24% of all drowning accidents in 2007.
- Of all incidents, 52% occurred in a natural body of water, such as a lake, pond, river, stream, or creek. One drowning occurred at a private pool, and one in a bath tub.
- 95% of all incidents in 2007 involved males. Men between the ages of 50 and 64 were at the highest risk for drowning. In 2007, eight men, or 38% of the victims, were in this age group.
- Males between the ages of 35 and 49 were at the second highest risk for drowning. In 2007, five men, or 24% of the victims, were in this age group.
- At the time of the accident, five of all drowning victims were boating, four were participating in aquatic activity, two were engaged in non-aquatic activity, one was bathing, and eight were travelling on either land or ice.
- 81% of all drownings took place in rural areas.
- The deadliest time of day for drownings was between 6 and 10 p.m. In 2007, eight accidents occurred during this time.
- April was the deadliest month for drownings, at 29% with six incidents. During the summer months of June, July, and August combined, ten drowning incidents took place.



# Comparisons

to 2005 Drowning Report Statistics

Compared to 2005 statistics, Saskatchewan experienced an increase in drowning incidents in 2007. In 2005, 14 drownings - two females and 12 males - occurred, compared to 21 incidents in 2007 - 20 males and one female.

The number of drowning victims of Aboriginal descent decreased in 2007 compared to 2005. In 2007, 29% of all drowning victims were of Aboriginal descent, a significant decline from 64% in 2005.

In 2007, 29% of all drownings took place at either a lake or a pond, a decrease from 64% in 2005.

The number of drownings that occurred in either a ditch or a culvert increased to 14% in 2007, while none occurred in 2005.

The number of drowning incidents that took place while boating increased to 24%, compared to 21% in 2005.

While the highest number of drowning incidents occurred in April 2007, the summer months remained the deadliest period for incidents, at 48%, a slight increase from 43% in the summer months of 2005.





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# Water Safety Tips



Lifesaving Society  
Saskatchewan Branch

2224 Smith Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2P4

Phone: (306) 780-9255

Fax: (306) 780-9498

[lifesaving@sasktel.net](mailto:lifesaving@sasktel.net)  
[www.lifesavingsociety.sk.ca](http://www.lifesavingsociety.sk.ca)

The Lifesaving Society is a national volunteer-based charitable organization that works to prevent drownings and water-related incidents through training programs, public education, research and consultation.

**If you are not within arms reach, you've gone too far!** Never leave a child alone in, on or near water and always supervise them closely.

**Choose it! Use it!** Always wear a life-jacket or Personal Floatation Device when boating or when in, on or around water.

**Play and swim in supervised areas.** The majority of all water-related deaths occur in situations without life-guard supervision.

**Always swim with a buddy!** Many drownings occur within a very small distance from others. Watch out for each other!

**Be water smart. Learn to swim.** Learning to swim, float and tread water are essential skills that you must know to help you survive in the water.

**Learn lifesaving and first aid skills.** Learning to swim is not enough. Learn rescue skills to help yourself and others.

**Feet first - first time.** Protect yourself and know where it is safe to dive. A spinal injury from a water-related incident could result in paralysis or death.

**Don't go overboard.** Alcohol and boating don't mix. Impaired boating is just as serious as impaired driving.

**Make every trip a round trip.** Drive your powerboat or personal watercraft responsibly. Sit down and don't rock the boat. Drive at moderate speeds, be aware of changing weather conditions, and tell someone your travel plans.

**Don't bank on river banks.** Rain and melting snow make the river water rise and flow quickly, a potentially fatal situation.

