

# Summer Months Mean Boating And More Accidents

The boating season is now underway for Texas' summer sailors.

But the nation's 46 million old and new sailors will enjoy this scene only by batten down the hatches of their watercraft safety procedures, says the Association of Fire and Casualty Companies in Texas.

Before casting off take these simple precautions: check vessel for physical soundness, review the "rules of the road" and make doubly sure that insurance policies are adequate to cover all possible perils.

In 1972 nationwide, the Coast Guard reports, there were 3,942 boating accidents accounting for 1,437 deaths, 829 injuries and more than \$7 million in property damage. In Texas, there were 195 accidents involving 87 deaths, 28 injuries and more than \$160,000 in property damage.

Don't say "it can't happen to me" and ignore standard safety procedures, warns the Association.

Statistics show that more boating accidents occur on Saturdays and Sundays during the month of July, and between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., when a maximum number of boats are on the water.

Operators and their faulty handling of boats were blamed for 836, or more than 58 per cent, of last year's fatalities nationwide.

The chief faults of the operator were listed by the Coast Guard as improper loading and overloading of the boat, disregard of weather warnings, and proceeding in an unseaworthy craft.

Fire and explosion—resulting in \$720,000 in property damage—again were usually caused by an operator's improper installation or maintenance of engine or equipment, disobedience of safe fueling practices and lack of operating experience.

Just plain bad judgement—operating in waters which exceed the limits of the craft, the operator's training or experience, or without the usual mandatory lookout when towing a water skier—was one of the largest contributors to death and injury on the nation's waterways.

These grim facts and statistics, says the Association, should be enough to encourage boating enthusiasts to be both safety-conscious and insurance-minded.

Boating is fast becoming summer's premier pastime. Some 9.5 million pleasure craft are now afloat. Because marinas, boat-

yards and yacht clubs—numbering only 5,900—have not kept up with this growth, boat jams have become common occurrences.

Get proper instruction before weighing anchor. Motorboat owners may have their craft inspected for safety and review standard operating procedures with the assistance of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a volunteer, non-military organization created by

Congress to promote safety in recreational boating.

The 1971 Boat Safety Act—which established new regulations for boat construction—also requires rowboats, canoes and sailboats to carry lifesaving devices.

The Association points out that there is no standard policy for boat owners which covers all types of vessels. Facts that must

be taken into consideration are the size and classification of the craft, the waters in which the boat will be sailed, and the type of coverage owners select.

Loss of life or injury to a loved one can never be compensated by money, anyway.

Always emphasize accident prevention, says the Association, as you won't be faced with post-accident sorrow and loss.

## Cong. Teague Wants Goals Picked Closely

"If we do not choose our space goals carefully, we can be at a serious disadvantage in the years ahead in space," said Cong. Olin E. Teague of College Station in the April-June 1973 issue of Thiokol's Aerospace Facts.

The 1932 A&M graduate is featured in an article entitled "Tiger Teague: Champion of Space Exploration." The article refers to the NASA Authorization Bill which passed the House May 23.

Teague, chairman of the Science and Astronautics Committee of the House of Representatives, talked about the need for space exploration and the reasons for the Space Shuttle, a vehicle being developed by NASA to simplify travel to and from space.

The veteran lawmaker declared space represents a place of scientific investigation which has no boundaries, a potential place of commerce and the military "high ground" of the future.

Teague, who represents Texas' Sixth District, said the Space Shuttle will allow space to be utilized in a more economical manner. He realizes he will have to work hard to get the money that will be needed for next year's space program.

The congressman also believes the Space Shuttle program is urgent because of the Russian interest in space.

"Certainly the space program is not the only way to maintain and enhance our technology, but the national space program and the Space Shuttle are key elements in our maintenance of technical vitality and all of the implications that they contain," Teague said.

"The steady support of Tiger Teague is a valuable asset to the future of the space program and the Space Shuttle project," the article concluded.

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