



Marine incident reporting requirements in NSW



Marine incidents 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.

What to do 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. If the involved Master or owner of vessel fails to complete and submit a vessel incident report to Maritime, it is an offence under Section 102 of the Marine Safety Act and prosecution action can be taken by Maritime.

(Section 99 of the Maritime Safety Act 1998 and Section 139 of the Marine Safety Regulation 2016)

Aquatic Licence Holders

If a vessel involved in an aquatic event (sailing race), the licence holder must meet the reporting conditions as stated in the Aquatic Licence conditions.

When to report an incident

The skipper of each vessel involved must submit a Vessel Incident Report (VIR) 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, or as soon as reasonably possible.

