

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION DIRECTIVE**

DIRECTIVE #: D 327

PAGE 1 OF 2

SUBJECT: DNR AGENCY VESSEL ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

DATE: NOV 21, 1997

RELATED DIRECTIVES, STANDARDS, ETC:

LAST REVISION: SEP 1, 2011

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE LANGUAGE USED IN THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYEE AND THE AGENCY. THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE ANY CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OR ENTITLEMENTS. THE AGENCY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART. NO PROMISES OR ASSURANCES, WHETHER WRITTEN OR ORAL, WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO OR INCONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THIS PARAGRAPH CREATE ANY CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this directive is to provide employees with guidelines for reporting accidents / incidents involving state owned vessels and ensure agency compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

DIRECTIVE: Accidents/Incidents and collisions of agency vessels which involve personal injury or property damage will be promptly reported and evaluated for any corrective action or discipline in accordance with state law, departmental policy and procedures. This directive is inclusive for all accidents /incidents, including those, which involve only one vessel.

PROCEDURES

A. Employee/Operator/Supervisor Responsibilities

- 1) All DNR employees and DLEOS acting in their official capacity will immediately report to his or her supervisor any accident /incident involving any DNR vessel.
- 2) The operator will provide their immediate supervisor a written report or statement about the accident/incident within 72 hours of the accident/incident, or as directed by a supervisor.
- 3) The supervisor will notify the Law Enforcement Investigations Section immediately, upon determination of an accident/incident that causes injury or damage to private property, without fatality, and request an investigation of the accident/incident.
- 4) If the supervisor determines that the accident/incident did not cause injury or damages to private property, the supervisor will conduct the investigation themselves or assign the investigation to a designated officer.
- 5) In an accident/incident involves a fatality the supervisor will notify the Region Captain or

- appropriate Supervisor immediately.
- 6) Supervisors must ensure that all investigative responsibilities and procedures are followed and completed.

NOTE: All accidents/incidents involving DNR vessels assigned to agency divisions other than the Law Enforcement Division will be investigated by the Law Enforcement Investigations Section.


B. Investigative Responsibilities

- 1) If the accident/incident involves an agency vessel and causes damage to private property or injury to any person, with no fatality, the accident/incident will be investigated by the Law Enforcement Investigations Section.
- 2) If the accident/incident involving an agency vessel causes damage to the agency vessel only, the accident/incident will be investigated by the assigned region officer.
- 3) If the accident/incident involving an agency vessel involves a death, the accident/ incident will be investigated by the United States Coast Guard or a state law enforcement agency other than SCDNR.

C. Law Enforcement Vessel Accident/Incident Review

- 1) All agency accident/incident investigations conducted in the region will be reviewed by the appropriate supervisor for determination of any disciplinary action.
- 2) All agency vessel accident/incident investigations conducted by the Law Enforcement Investigations Section will be reviewed by the investigations supervisor and senior staff designee of determination of any violation of policy, directive, state or federal law.

Approved:



A.C. Frampton, Colonel