

****REVISED** CPSO Advises Boaters to Secure Vessels Due to Ice and Capsizing Risk**

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Posted by Breck Scott

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office is urging all boat owners to properly house and secure their vessels as freezing temperatures and ice accumulation create dangerous changes in weight and balance that can lead to capsizing.

Ice buildup on decks, rails, and superstructures adds significant, uneven weight to boats. The added top-side weight can raise a vessel's center of gravity, reduce stability, and increase the likelihood of rolling or capsizing—especially when moored or stored in the water. Even small amounts of ice can have a major impact on balance.

The Sheriff's Office recommends the following safety measures:

- Move boats to covered storage when possible.
- Remove standing water and snow to prevent additional ice formation.
- Check and tighten mooring lines to account for changing water levels.
- Avoid boarding or operating boats with visible ice accumulation.
- Inspect vessels after freezing conditions for any damage or instability.

"These cold-weather conditions can quickly turn a stable boat into a serious hazard," said Sheriff Henry Whitehorn Sr. "Taking time now to secure properly and house vessels can prevent property damage, environmental hazards, and potential injuries."

Boaters are encouraged to stay informed of weather updates and exercise extreme caution until temperatures rise and ice conditions subside. For emergencies or to report hazardous conditions on local waterways, contact the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

Attachments

