

Nonprofit Organization Grants:

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
Recreational Boating Safety

Federal Grant Title:	National Non-Profit Organization Grant Program
Federal Agency:	United States Coast Guard
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-USCG-2020-001
Type of Funding:	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA Numbers:	97.012
CFDA Descriptions:	Boating Safety Financial Assistance

Grantee: National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)
Grant Number: 3320FAN112006
Grant Title: Boating Accident Investigation Courses
Period of Performance: 1 year grant

Award Amount: \$240,000.00

Summary:

The Boating Accident Investigation courses grant project focuses on improving the reliability of accident reporting and data collection. While recreational boating data is collected via many sources, the most critical data is collected through the Boating Accident Report Database (BARD) system. BARD collects data from every reportable boating accident in the United States and that data is collected by boat accident investigators trained by NASBLA.

NASBLA has trained over 7,700 marine law enforcement officers in the skills of boat accident investigation since the first courses were conducted in 1988. The current course curriculum has developed over time and covers a host of investigator responsibilities including data collection, diagramming, human factors, and report writing. An added emphasis on timely reporting of accident data has made correct, concise, and complete boat accident reports even more valuable.

For FY21, NASBLA is seeking funding to conduct five, Level I – Comprehensive courses and one, Level II – Advanced course. There is a constant need for the accident investigation training. Law enforcement officers routinely move through positions within their agency, and others retire or move to different locations. As a result, NASBLA is tasked with providing a series of boating accident investigation training courses to maintain a cadre of trained accident investigators nationwide

<https://www.nasbla.org/home>

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July 30, 2022

RE: 3320FAN112006 Final Grant Report – Boating Accident Investigation Courses

Herewith you will find a grant project report for the NASBLA - Coast Guard Grant Agreement 3320FAN112006. This report is the final report for this grant.

NASBLA received grant assistance to conduct a series of Boating Accident Investigation (BAI) training courses to improve the reliability of accident reporting and data collection among officers nationwide. NASBLA conducted five (5) BAI Comprehensive courses and one (1) BAI Advanced course.

I. Narrative Performance Report

Task 1: Identify, select and contract qualified course instructors. NASBLA subcontracted with sufficient professional boating accident investigators to provide instruction at the courses. All NASBLA instructors are required to have completed the NASBLA National Instructor Credentialing Program and demonstrate experience in accident investigation prior to instructing this course. The program manager for BAI is Matt Majors, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Task 2: Solicit, identify, and select host cities for courses. NASBLA staff worked with the course program managers and the states to determine the sites for the five, Level I – Comprehensive courses and the Level II – Advanced course. Host states for the Level I – Comprehensive courses included Massachusetts, South Dakota, Michigan, Colorado, South Carolina. The host state for the Level II – Advanced course was Florida at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, Florida Public Safety Institute in Havana, Florida.

Task 3: Coordinate storage of crashed boats.

The crashed boats are housed at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, Florida Public Safety Institute in Havana, Florida. The boats will continue to be stored in a manner that will allow NASBLA to access the boats easily for use in the advanced courses without any additional charges to move the boats to another site. Shrink wrapping the boats adds another level of protection to the boats by reducing collateral damage to the boats, giving the boats a longer shelf life.

Task 4: Recruit potential accident investigators (students) for courses.

NASBLA recruited training participants from member states and assured an equitable distribution of course slots from among the course applicant states. Spaces were also made available for other state and federal agencies as needed. Enrollment is limited to active, sworn law enforcement professionals. Staff will provided all participants with advance information on the site, date and prerequisites for the courses, including a link to the online portion of the course.

Task 5: Provide logistical support for courses. NASBLA ensured there was a lead instructor at each of the courses. The lead instructor worked with each training site to ensure proper setup of meeting space, including audio/visual requirements. The lead instructor provided registration services at the beginning of each course and ensure that all teaching materials and handouts were available at the training sites. NASBLA staff produced the student course certificates and accident investigation products package to be distributed at each course. This package included the course manuals and the Boat Accident Investigator’s Field Guide, at a minimum.

Task 6: Conduct accident investigation and GPS Forensics training. Five Level I – Comprehensive courses and one Level II – Advanced courses were delivered.

Date	Location	Name	# Trained
November 2 - 6, 2020	Florida	BAI Advanced	35
May 10 – 14, 2021	Massachusetts	BAI Comprehensive	40
July 12-16, 2021	South Dakota	BAI Comprehensive	40
August 30 - September 3, 2021	Michigan	BAI Comprehensive	29
September 13-17, 2021	Colorado	BAI Comprehensive	17
November 15-19, 2021	South Carolina	BAI Comprehensive	24

A total of 150 students attended the Level I – Comprehensive courses and a total of 35 students attended the Level II – Advanced courses for a total of 185 investigators/students trained.

Course Overviews

Boating Accident Investigation and Analysis Level I Comprehensive Course: NASBLA has developed an exportable training team that will deliver this course of study anywhere in the continental United States. The Level I Comprehensive Course is delivered in a blended model, with a four-hour online portion as a prerequisite to the instructor led 36-hour portion of the course a classroom which uses a team-teaching model so that students get multiple views and experiences to support and enhance the learning experience. The classroom portion of the course consists of instructor lecture, aided by PowerPoint presentations, class interaction, practical exercises, classroom presentations, and written examinations. The instructors will emphasize Adult Learning methodology and the importance of class interaction to ensure that all students understand the real-world implications of this specific body of knowledge. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will demonstrate understanding of the principles and techniques necessary to conduct a thorough and complete accident investigation. A compilation of performance measures will be used, including scenario review, class discussion, practical activities and objective testing.

[Course Overview](#)

Boat Incident Investigation and Reconstruction Level II Advanced Course:

The Advanced Course features a 36 hours of instruction, centered on incident reconstruction, utilizing a variety of 2-boat collisions on-site for hands-on examination by the students. A minimum of 16 hours are spent during the course investigating the diverse incident scenarios. At the end of the course, students will present their findings to the class, followed by videos of the actual staged collisions to confirm their conclusions.

[Course Overview](#)

Task 7: Maintain and update the accident investigator database. NASBLA staff collects and maintains information from all students who complete the training courses for entry into the student database.

III. Financial Status Report

See separate financial report SF 425. Copies of this report, as well as originals of the financial report have been forwarded to the Coast Guard Grant Administrator.

If you have any questions, or if I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 859-225-9487.

Sincerely,

/John M. Johnson/
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators