

**Case 421. A 38-year-old owner and a 20-year-old coworker drowned when they attempted to assist coworkers in a boat taking on water and beginning to sink.**

A 38-year-old male owner and a 20-year-old male coworker drowned when they attempted to assist coworkers in a boat taking on water and beginning to sink. There were two work crews were on site. One work crew, consisting of the owner and two coworkers were installing a waterfall feature at a home on the lake and the other work crew (two workers) was working in a 2006 aluminum 10-foot Tracker boat were gathering buoys delineating the swimming area in the lake. While gathering the buoys, the boat began to take on water and sink. The workers called the waterfall installation crew for help. The three workers ran down to the lake. By the time the crew arrived at the lake, both of the boaters were in the water. They attempted to swim to shore; one worker made it to shore, the other worker decided to swim back to the boat. The top of the boat was at water level. The owner of the firm and one of his coworkers entered the 51<sup>0</sup>F water to assist their coworkers. There was a steep drop off on the lake floor approximately 10-15 feet from shore as the two individuals waded out. Both of the individuals were found by the County Dive team in 10-foot deep water. The boat may have been overloaded; the boat had a maximum weight of 354 pounds. None of the individuals involved in this incident had access to a personal flotation device at the time of the incident.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation – the company ceased to exist with the owner's death.