

Info log

RIB fatality - July 2011

#### The Issue

Recently a young man tragically lost his life as a result of head injuries sustained after he fell out of a moving RIB. The incident occurred on the South Coast in fine weather conditions.

During a turning manoeuvre a crew member fell from the RIB and it is believed his head made contact with the propeller. The casualty was recovered from the water and emergency services attended the scene. The young man was later pronounced dead in hospital.

#### The Outcome

This incident further highlights the importance of following the guidelines provided by the RYA, MCA and MAIB for the use of small, high speed craft. The key points to note are:

- 1) Ensure all passengers and crew have appropriate seating for the speed at which the craft will be travelling;
- 2) Ensure all passengers have adequate handholds and if necessary footholds and that they use them;
- 3) Ensure warning is provided to passengers and crew of any intended steering manoeuvres or of any wash from other vessels;
- 4) Adjust speed to suit the conditions and the abilities of passengers and crew

Further guidance on operation of High Speed Craft can be found at:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/training/Web%20Documents/RYA%20Training/Training%20centres/Powerboat%20PW%20and%20IW/Passenger%20Safety%20on%20Small%20High%20Speed%20Craft.pdf>