Flyte konference 2025

Drowning accidents in Danish harbors

Why it happens and what can be done to prevent it?



Surf Lifesaving Denmark (TrygFonden Kystlivredning)

Department in TrygFonden/TryghedsGruppen

Not part of Tryg Insurance – but larges shareholder in Tryg

TFK (SLSD)

Lifeguarding service, safety equipment, risk assessments and water safety counseling, mini towers at public pools (lifesaving equipment), preventive campaigns and public information, drowning statistics ect.



Fatal drownings

Fatal drownings – 3 most frequent places										
	2001 - 2022			2023 (forecast)				2024 (forecast)		
	Count	Male	Female	Count	Male	Female	Gender unknown	Count	Male	Female
Harbor	300	93 %	7 %	17	65 %	24 %	11 %	23	96 %	4 %
Coast/beach	292	83 %	17 %	15	73 %	20 %	7 %	12	75 %	25 %
Open sea	278	95 %	5 %	3	100 %	0 %	0 %	6	100 %	0 %

Source: National Institute of Public Health 2024 and Surf Lifesaving Denmark 2023 and 2024

Why?



Near drownings in harbors, marinas and urban canals



Of what happened before, during and after

269



14





Observation study

1 very busy site - lots of activity

1 busy site – walking along the water

180 hr



90 hr



Dec. 2022

90 hr



July 2023

Observations



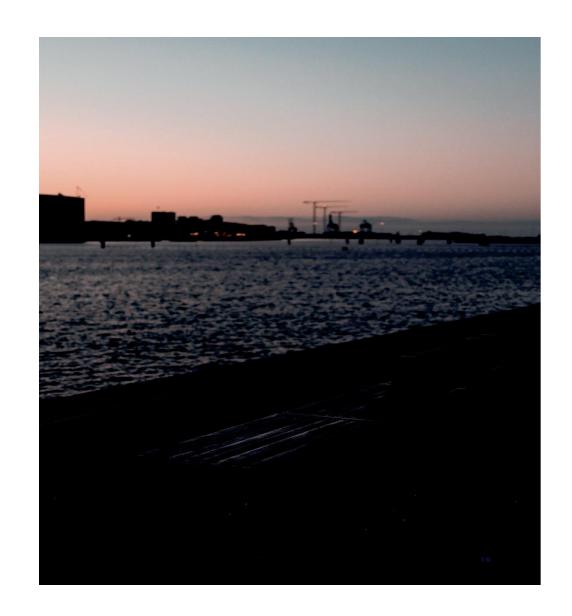


Vox pops (short interview)







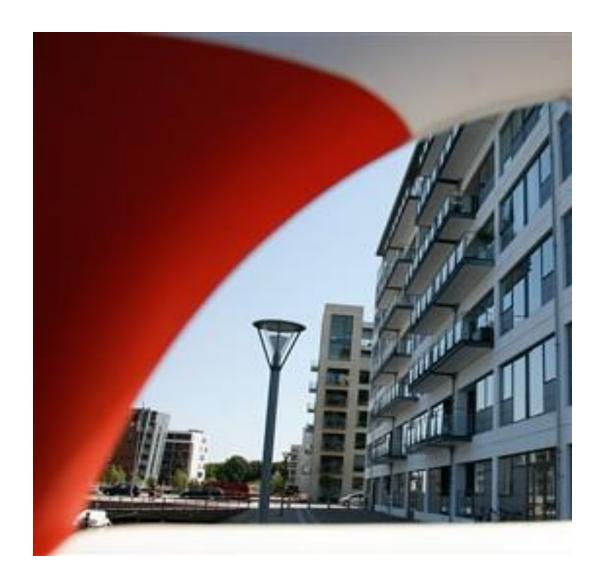


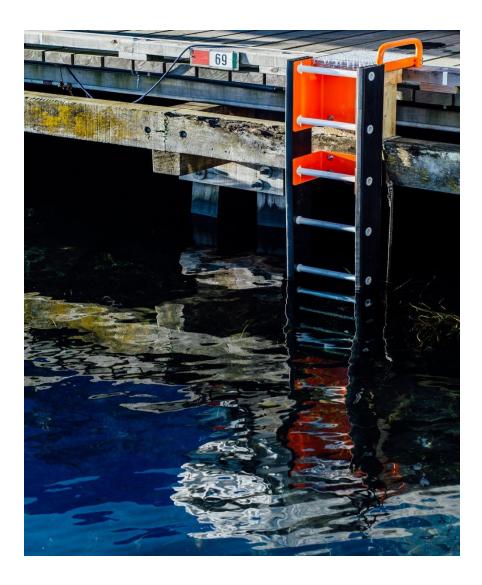
Reasons.....





Lack of equipment





Life lived by the water







Urban areas by the water











Alone and alcohol











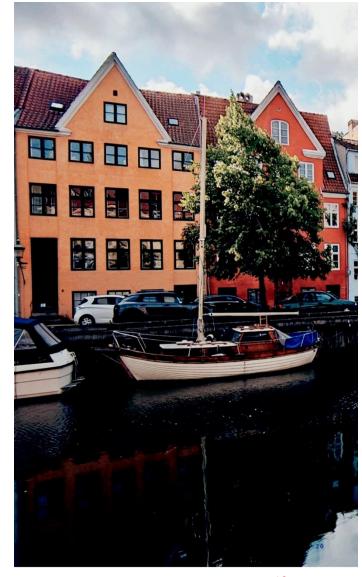






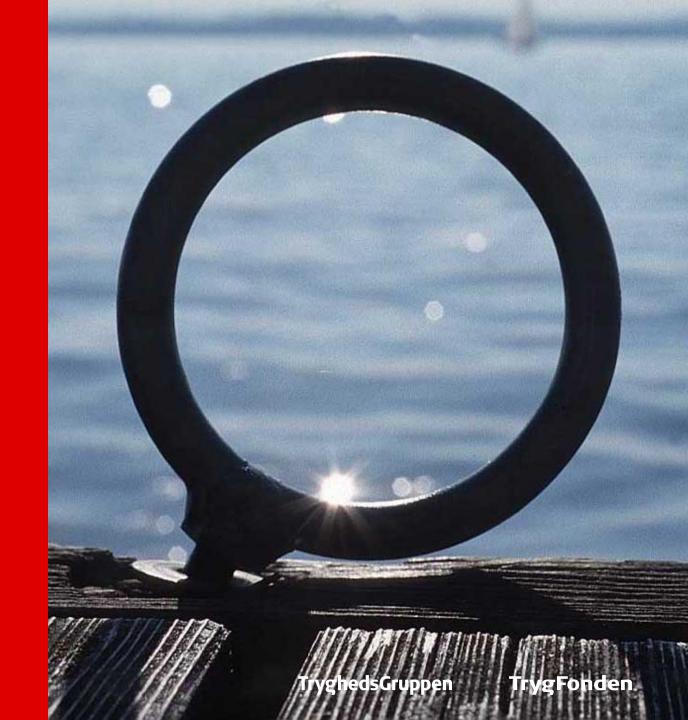


Increase of fatal drownings in the harbors in the future?



What to do?

National expert group
Best practice Innovation
Motivation
Legislation
Public awareness



And Responsibility

No one can help all, but all can help someone...



Vision

Everybody should be safe by the water

No one will fall into the water without being able to get up

Thank you for your attention!





Helen Witt

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