Statement of Brenda Hamilton

Everglades National Park Boat Tours

December 31, 2002

Three (3) pages total including this cover

PRIVACY ACT

The officer investigating this marine casualty wishes to collect your name, address, telephone and place of employment. In order to collect this private information, the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552A(e)(3)) requires that you be informed, the primary purpose for which the Coast Guard will use this information, any secondary purposes for the information and whether your disclosure of this information is required by law or is voluntary.

1. **Authority**: The investigating officer, as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer (14 U.S.C. 93(e)) is requesting this information pursuant to the authority contained in 46 United States Code 6301.
2. **Principal Purpose for this Information**: The statement you provide to the investigating officer will be used to determine the cause of this marine casualty. Your name, address and information is needed or to clarify certain aspects of your statement. Your identify and contact information is needed in order to use your statement at any administrative proceeding which may result from this investigation.
3. **Other uses for this Private Information**: No other uses are intended for your private information.
4. **The Disclosure of your Personal Information is Voluntary.**

Statement made by: Brenda Hamilton Occupation: Office Manager

Address: PO BOX 686 Everglades City FL Zip: 34139

Telephone: (Home) 239-695-2758 Business: 239-695-4731

Time & Date of Occurrence: 12-30-02 2:55pm

Location: Panther Indian Key Pass

Understanding all these rights, and having received no threats, promises of reward or immunity, I voluntarily waive my rights as stated above and make the following statement:

Signature Date

Witness to Signature Date

WITNESS STATEMENT

We sold tickets as we normally due for 2pm We had a mate on standby as we always do, if the boat count is over 30pass. Our orginall records said it did, how ever even ~~are~~ after told where to go and when the passengers hear but do not listen. We depend on the Captain to advise if mate is needed as is required, for over 30 the Captain left without notifing ~~of~~ us a mate was needed. About 3pm I got a call from our maintenance person saying he needed Sammy quick, he sounded panic'ed so I got him imediately, we sent out all rescue boats and persons on the spot. 2 people returned with Ranger and told me they were the last one's off and every one was okay. We bought towels + took name and tried to make sure every one was attended to. We then refunded all their money and I asumed the count was incorrect so I corrected count and put on 2:30. We thought all was done properly and the count was 29. When I went through refunds 12/31 I found 2 more people. I don't know if the people wanted more $ or if they had young children & didn't tell us. We don't charge under 5 but advised people we need count!

I hereby affirm that the foregoing statement consisting of ____ pages is a true and accurate account of the incident in question to the best of my recollection.

Brenda Hamilton
Printed Name

Brenda Hamilton 12/31/02
Signature **Date**

Nicolette A. [illegible] 12/31/02
Witness to Signature **Date**

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