



WATER SAFETY: BEWARE OF ELECTRICAL DANGERS

Electrical Shock is Fatal



Electric shock drowning (ESD) can occur when faulty wiring sends an electrical current into the water. The current then passes through the body, causing paralysis, and results in drowning.

Several potential electrical hazards exist in swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas, on board boats and in the waters surrounding boats, marinas and launch ramps.

[Learn more about Electric Shock Drowning](#)

Tips for Swimmers

Never swim near a marina, dock, or near a boat while it's running. Obey all "no swimming" signs.

In pools, look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, or flicker.

Do not swim before, during or after thunderstorms.

[Read more about Electric Shock Drowning in the NFPA Journal](#)

Tips for Pool Owners

Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and replace/upgrade electrical devices for your pool, spa, or hot tub to keep them electronically safe. Learn how to turn off power in case of an emergency.

Make sure that any overhead lines are the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board.

Electrical appliances and cords should be kept at least 6' away from the water. Use battery-operated instead of cord-connected appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios, and stereos.

Tips for Boat Owners

Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat. Docks or boats can leak electricity into the water.

Each year, and after a major storm, have the boat's electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes.

Know where the main breaker is located on both the boat and on the shore.

Have a ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) installed on your boat. Use power cords that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.