

ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING



A drowning resulting from paralysis caused by electrical currents in the water. There is no visible warning or way to tell if water surrounding a boat, marina, or dock is energized.

As little as 1/50th the current used by a 60-watt light bulb can cause paralysis.

HIGH RISK AREAS:

- NEVER swim around boats and docks that use electricity
- Faulty dock or boat wiring may cause electricity to enter water
- Greatest risk in freshwater as the human body is more conductive than the water itself
- Brackish waters – such as estuaries or rivers after heavy rains or flooding – may be high risk areas

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY:

- Don't get in the water – call 911
- Throw a floatation device
- Don't pull the person toward the dock
- Once you have retrieved the person, start CPR if there is no pulse
- If needed, use an Automated Electrical Defibrillators – make sure the victim's chest is dry

PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK:

- Have a qualified marine electrician inspect your boat and dock annually
- Install ground-fault protection on your boat and dock
- Ask your marina to install ground-fault protection and test annually
- Periodically test your boat for electrical leakage into the water
- Disconnect the boat's generator during a storm

MORE BOATING SAFETY TIPS



FILE A FLOAT PLAN

Share with someone you trust the details about the trip, boat, persons, towing or trailer vehicle, communication equipment, and emergency contacts



WEAR A LIFE JACKET

Set the example and always wear a life jacket.



USE AN ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH

Stops the boat's engine should the operator, or in some cases even passenger, unexpectedly fall overboard.



KNOW THE ROUTE

Use nautical charts and state and local maps to determine your route, and be aware of markers and hazards.



BE AWARE

Watch for dangers from all directions.



MAINTAIN SAFE SPEED

Follow local regulations, buoys, and signs; your speed may be determined by visibility, weather, and boat traffic.

www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com



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