

# 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.



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