



# Electrical Safety Around Water



## Electrical hazards exist in swimming pools, hot tubs, lakes, and ponds

Electric shock drowning (ESD) happens when marina or onboard electrical systems leak electric current into the water. The current then passes through the body, causing paralysis, and results in drowning.

### TIPS FOR SWIMMERS

- Never swim near a marina, dock or boatyard, or near a boat while it's running.
- Obey all "no swimming signs" on docks.
- Look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker or work intermittently.
- If tingling occurs, immediately stop swimming in your current direction. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling, Exit the water as quickly as possible and avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.
- Do not swim before, during or after thunderstorms.

### TIPS FOR BOAT AND POOL OWNERS

- Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat. Docks or boats can leak electricity into the water causing water electrification.
- Each year, and after a major storm that affects the boat, have the boat's electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician.
- Know where your main breaker(s) are located on both the boat and the shore power source so you can respond quickly in case of an emergency.
- Have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) installed on the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that are Marine Listed when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.
- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures,
- If you are putting in a new pool or spa be sure the wiring is performed by an experienced electrician.
- Electrical appliances, equipment and cords should be kept at least 6 feet away from the water.

