

E.S.D.

Reduce the Risk of Electric Shock Drowning

- Stay out of the water in the marina and elsewhere near AC powered equipment (boat lifts, etc.).
- Keep your family, guests, and pets out of such waters.
- Inspect your shore power cords and connections regularly.
- Inform your family, guests and fellow boaters of the risks of electric shock drowning.
- Engage a certified marine electrician to repair all circuit faults on your boat.

For in-depth information or consultation, contact the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association at:
www.electricshockdrowning.org
(503)543-9777

The information presented in this brochure is a general description of the circumstances of electric shock drowning and does not relate to or describe any specific individual, vessel or situation. This information is not intended to provide specific advice relating to the reader or conditions and should not be relied upon as advice related to a specific situation. The reader is encouraged to get situational advice from a qualified marine electrician as to the reader's specific circumstances.



Electric Shock Drowning



You are a safe, skillful boater.
You keep your vessel and its support equipment in top operating condition.
You take all the required precautions against fire or explosion during and after refueling.
Despite all of this, you and your guests may not realize there may be another threat as you settle into another fun day on your boat while it is tied up to your transient or home slip.
The threat is electric shock drowning.
While your boat is in the slip, you may decide to jump off the swim platform, check out a prop that vibrated during the cruise or recover a precious smart phone, sunglasses or tool. Any of those decisions could be a deadly mistake.

What is electric shock drowning?

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Electric Shock Drowning

is death by electrocution or a drowning that results when an electric current of sufficient strength leaks into the water and the victim encounters the resulting electric field.

The amount of current required to kill can be much less than that required to trip an otherwise effective safety device

Deadly current leaks paralyze the limbs and breathing, and can cause the heart to stop pumping.

These leaks may stem from your own boat, from a nearby vessel, or devices such as a boat lift, if any has a fault in a circuit powered by alternating current.

With the proper training and relatively low-cost tools, a person of average adult capacity can detect some of the common conditions for electric shock drowning.

The job of eliminating these hazardous conditions should be entrusted to a marine certified electrician.

Some Hazard Detection Tools

Clamp Meter:



Circuit Tester:



About the United States Power Squadrons

The United States Power Squadrons have been working to improve recreational boating by providing educational opportunities and promoting boating safety for 100 years.

USPS is the world's largest private boating organization, with about 35,000 members in 400 local squadrons. The local squadrons tailor classroom and on-water training, execute public awareness campaigns, conduct vessel safety checks, and offer other programming to make recreational boating safe and enjoyable for all.