

WHO IS ESA?

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is mandated by the Government of Ontario to enhance public electrical safety in the province. We have responsibilities under the Electricity Act and the Safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act.

ESA's primary activities are identifying and targeting leading causes of electrical safety risk; monitoring and enforcing regulations; promoting awareness, education and training; and collaborating with stakeholders to improve the state of electrical safety in Ontario.

ESA is responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code; licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians; electrical distribution safety; and electrical product safety.



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OUR VISION:

An Ontario where people can live, work and play safe from electrical harm.

For more safety tips and/or information about ESA, visit esasafe.com or call **1-877-ESA-SAFE (372-7233)**.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Around the Dock



Tips for
public and
private dock
owners

esasafe.com



ELECTRICAL SAFETY AROUND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOCKS

Help prevent electric shock drowning – make sure your dock’s electrical installations and equipment are safe

Have you ever noticed the “No Swimming” signs around marinas, yacht clubs and docks? Most people assume this is to prevent swimmers from being injured or killed by boats. But there’s also another invisible hazard: **electric shock**.

While many summer activities happen on or near the dock, remember: **water and electricity are a lethal mix!**

Dock owners are responsible for ensuring the electrical installation and equipment around docks and boathouses are maintained and in safe working order.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

- ❗ Electric shock drowning is a phenomena that is linked to at least one death each year in North America. It’s likely many more go unreported.
- ❗ Electric shock drowning happens when electric current leaks into a surrounding body of water and the water becomes energized. If someone enters that area of water, he or she could lose muscle control and be unable to swim to safety or call for help.
- ❗ Studies show there is no safe level of shock. Electric shocks can be fatal, but even mild shocks can lead to long-term health issues like memory loss, chronic pain and depression.

How does electricity get into the water?

Electricity leaking into the water surrounding a dock or boat is caused by a malfunction of electrical equipment or faulty electrical installation.

Some sources are:

- Power boats with faulty electrical wiring that are connected to shore power.
- Electrical installations and equipment on or near docks that have not been properly maintained.



HOW TO PREVENT SHOCKS

Repairing and maintaining your electrical equipment

Electric shock can happen anywhere electricity is present – on the dock itself and in the water. Electrical installations and equipment on docks should be checked regularly and maintained to ensure they’re safe and comply with Ontario Electrical Safety Code requirements.

ESA strongly recommends having the wiring, outlets and other dockside electrical equipment checked by a Licensed Electrical Contractor.

To find a Licensed Electrical Contractor near you visit www.esasafe.com.

Three tips to help ensure your dock’s electrical system is safe

- 1 Now, the Ontario Electrical Safety Code requires **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)** protection for receptacles on floating piers or docks and circuits that deliver electricity to cottage boathouses or docks.
- 2 Never use frayed or damaged cords and make sure all marine cords have a ground pin (i.e. three prongs) to prevent electric shock.
- 3 If you suspect an issue with your dock’s electrical system immediately turn off the power at the electrical panel and contact a Licensed Electrical Contractor to check your system.



Also, consider placing signage near your dock warning about the potential for electric current in the water. This is especially important in areas with higher boat traffic, like marinas. And remember, electric shock drowning can happen on private docks, too.