

# Marina Safety Checklist

Familiarize yourself with your marina and help prevent electrical hazards. Use this checklist to talk with the marina manager or owner about potential safety concerns:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Are any cords cracked or frayed?

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

- Is there corrosion or other damage on any of the power pedestals?

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

- When was the marina last inspected? Inspections should be performed yearly.

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- What edition of the codes (NEC, NFPA, ABYC) does the marina comply with?

Code Edition(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- What type of ground fault protection does the marina provide?

Protection: \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and keep for your records

## Marina Contact Information

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Power Source Location:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, call 911 or VHF Channel 16 immediately

For more information  
visit:

[www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

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# Boating & Marina Safety



# Electrical Safety Foundation International

# 5 Tips for Boat Owners



**Swimming Safety** - Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat, or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of Electric Shock Drowning.



**Put It to the Test** - Be sure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually. GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly to ensure functionality. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.



**Use the Right Tool** - Never use household cords near water. Use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL- Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.



**Know Your Surroundings** - Know where your main breaker(s) are located on both the boat and the shorepower source so that you can respond quickly in case of an emergency. Be aware of any potential electrical hazards by checking for nearby power lines before boating, fishing, or swimming.



**Learn the Code** - Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician to be sure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA, and ABYC safety codes and standards.

# Safety Device Guide

## *What is a circuit breaker?*

Circuit breakers are designed to detect faulty electrical conditions within electrical systems and interrupt current flow.

## *What is a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)?*

These outlets or circuit breakers prevent shock and electrocutions by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning.

## *What is a portable GFCI?*

A portable GFCI requires no special knowledge or equipment to install. Portable GFCIs should only be used on a temporary basis and should be tested prior to every use.

## *What is an Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupter?*

ELCIs measure current flow within electrical wires and immediately switch electricity off if an imbalance of current flow is detected.

## *What is a shore power cord or marine power cord?*

Shore power cords and Y-adaptor cords are designed specifically for use near water to provide shore side electrical power to ships and boats while their main and auxiliary engines are turned off.

## *What is a power pedestal or dockside electrical system?*

A power pedestal or dockside electrical system is a power box designed with corrosion-resistant materials to provide electricity safely on the dock.



# Electric Shock Drowning

Electric Shock Drowning occurs when a body makes contact with electrified water and becomes a conductor of electricity leading to the possibility of complete loss of muscle control, rapid or irregular heart beat (ventricular fibrillation), and even electric shock death.

## **Common Causes:**

Docks and boats can carry sources of electricity. Faulty wiring or the use of damaged electrical cords and other devices can cause the surrounding water source to become energized.

## **How to Avoid:**

- Obey all "No swimming" signs.
- NEVER swim near a marina.
- NEVER swim near a boat while it is running.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, tell someone and swim back in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

## **How to Respond:**

- Do not enter the water!
- Call 911 or VHF Channel 16 immediately
- If possible turn off all nearby power sources
- Extreme caution should be taken when removing the victim from the water.
- If the victim does not have a pulse and is not breathing begin CPR or use (AED) Artificial Electrical Defibrillator if available.

