

Stay safe around water and electricity

SUMMER MEANS MORE TIME AT POOLS, LAKES, AND RIVERS, BUT WITH THAT COMES A RISK MANY PEOPLE DON'T THINK ABOUT — ELECTRICITY AROUND WATER. WHETHER AT HOME OR ON A BOAT, ELECTRICAL SAFETY SHOULD ALWAYS BE PART OF YOUR PLANS.

Pools and spas

Electrical devices should never be near pools. Keep fans, speakers, and other appliances away from the water. Use battery-powered or waterproof equipment instead.

If someone feels a stinging or tingling sensation in the water, it may indicate electricity is present. Do not enter the pool to help. Instead, shut off the power and use a non-metal shepherd's hook to pull the person to safety.

Before using long-handled pool equipment, always check for nearby power lines. Pools and hot tubs should be at least 25 feet away from overhead lines.

Lakes and rivers

Avoid using extension cords near the shoreline or docks. Never swim near boats connected to shore power or near docks with electrical services. Faulty wiring can leak electricity into the water, causing paralysis and drowning.

If you notice tingling while swimming, exit the water quickly but do not touch ladders or

other metal objects. If someone is shocked in the water, do not jump in after them. Turn off the power source and use an insulated object to assist from land. Call 911 immediately.

Boating safety

Boaters should always know where power lines are located. Use caution when raising masts or fishing poles to avoid accidental contact. When docking, enlist someone to guide the boat and ensure it remains at least 10 feet from power lines.

Boats should be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters

(GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs). Portable GFCIs used near water should be labeled "UL-Marine Listed" and tested monthly.

To ensure safety, have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. Wiring should meet local and state codes, and all connections should be secured in a panel box.

PLUG INTO SAFETY

