

Electric Shock Drowning and Recreational Boating

By Ed Payne, NBF President

Today, we are informing all of a very dangerous condition: Electric Shock Drowning. And we are doing it with a focus on the Recreational Boater.

Please note that this condition can be deadly!

We are pushing this through with help from other sources, because we are in the launch sequence for seasonal boaters, and many times this is when the condition is most possible. One season haulout, then work on the vessel over the winter, and launch the next spring season, could make electrical current leakage a very real problem.

As it happens, our friends at **Boat U.S.** have published a very in-depth article in their "**Seaworthy**" magazine. You can find that article here:

<https://www.boatus.com/seaworthy/magazine/2013/july/electric-shock-drowning-explained.asp> .

Another valuable resource is the **Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association**, which you can find at: <http://www.electricschockdrowning.org/> Not only is there much relevant information on this site, but there are many links to more information than any singular article might provide.

Though we are suggesting that winter layup may be a cause for current leakage, it is not the only possible cause. And it may not even be your vessel, as it could be your dock partners, or even the marina that is allowing current leakage. One must be aware of all possible sources.

There are many current detectors available to allow one to determine if your vessel has current leakage, or even if the marina you are docked in might be the culprit, prior to jumping into the water for a cooling swim in unsafe conditions. One can search for them on the internet, and determine if one suits you more than another. We can only hope that the individual will be informed through these articles and wish to have some sort of testing device available to protect family and friends from disaster.

With all that National Boating Federation addresses for the Recreational Boater, our primary focus is on safety! We hope that is your first consideration in all you do, especially to have a great time while boating!

Please access other information from National Boating Federation at www.n-b-f.org and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NationalBoatingFederation>