



Florida Swimming Pool Association
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WHAT IS THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING IN POOLS?

(SARASOTA, Fla.) June 23, 2017— Electric Shock Drowning is the result when a swimmer is electrocuted from stray voltage in a body of water, often leaving the swimmer paralyzed and unable to swim. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, the majority of these deaths have occurred in marinas and docks due to the wiring of the dock or marina and from the boats that are connected to the power supply from the dock or marina. A recent Today Show broadcast stated that the majority of these incidents occur in pools, which is inaccurate and not supported by any known figures.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association (FSPA) recognizes that these incidents can occur in pools. In response to recent news stories, FSPA wants to highlight the importance that all pools and spas should be built in compliance with the National Electrical Code and the Florida Building Code. “Almost all pools and spas incorporate electrical safety features which do not (and cannot) exist in marinas and boat docks because these facilities have entirely different physical and electrical requirements and characteristics,” the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) stated in a press release. These safety features are required by the National Electric Code.

Proper maintenance and upkeep is critical, especially for older pools and spas and equipment, which not only exhibit the effects of age but also were not built to modern standards. "The best protection for families is inspection, detection, and correction of electrical hazards in and around swimming pools and spas," says Jennifer Hatfield, FSPA Government Relations consultant. Protect the lighting, circuits, and nearby receptacles with a Class A Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (GFCIs) – one of the best safety devices to help prevent electrocution. If consumers have concern about their pool, they should contact an FSPA licensed professional at floridapoolpro.com.

For more information, contact Jennifer Hatfield, FSPA Government Relations Consultant.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association is a trade association for the pool and spa industry in Florida. There are approximately 700 member businesses in 16 chapters across the state. Members are required to abide by a code of ethics and to be properly licensed and insured. FSPA provides the industry with access to continuing education courses, information on current trends and issues, and an arbitration program and government relations representation.

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