



# LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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## Electrical Safety Around Water

### Electrical Facts Around Water:

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 400 people in the United States are electrocuted each year.

Carbon monoxide can remain in or around a boat at unsafe levels even if the engine has been turned off.

### Electrical Safety Tips Around Water:

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. This can put anyone at risk of electrical shock drowning (ESD).

Have boats inspected and maintained each year by a qualified marine electrician.

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs) should be installed and tested monthly. Run tests to find out if

electrical current is leaking from the boat.

Only use cords intended to be used around water. Never use household cords near water.



All electrical outlets, light switches, and receptacles around swimming pools must be UL listed for safety assurance.

Know where main breakers are on both the boat and the shore power source. This will help you respond quickly in an emergency.

### Always Remember

### What kind of car does an electrician drive? A Volts-wagon.

Underwater gas and electrical utility lines are indicated by special signs. You should have the ability to recognize these signs. Don't anchor the boat near the underwater gas or electrical utility lines.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.

It is important to have water-proof coverings on electrical appliances that are used near swimming pools, spas, and boating marinas.

Electrical devices and cords should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources such as pools and spas. When possible, use battery operated electrical devices outside.

Never handle electrical devices when you are wet – either from water activities or from perspiration.

Make sure there are no power lines over a swimming pool.

Do not swim during a thunderstorm.

### National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Seasonal-fires/Electrical-safety-around-water>

### Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

Habirdnd = bu2sh Ujustrme

Answers to last month's wuzzles are Run away with me and Hammer into.

### Fire Safety Quiz

- It is not important for electrical equipment used around water to be grounded or bonded.
  - True
  - False
- Due to ESD, Kentucky is considering a bill that will ban swimming within \_\_\_ feet of a marina.
  - 100
  - 200
  - 50
  - 75

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. A. & 2. A.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief