

A Silent Killer: Electric Shock Drownings

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that approximately 10 people in the United States die each day from accidental drowning. The circumstances surrounding each drowning are different, and electric shock drownings are difficult to track.

Electric shock drowning is a cause of death that occurs when swimmers are exposed to electric currents in the water. The main cause of electric shock drownings is faulty wiring on boats or docks that causes electric current to leak into the water. These types of drownings occur almost exclusively in freshwater on lakes and rivers, while families and friends are enjoying summer weather.

In April 2016, a 15-year-old girl died from electric shock drowning while swimming near a lake house dock. [Read Article Here](#). As a result of the tragic event, her parents have attempted to educate others about the danger to try and help prevent other similar incidents from occurring.

Homeowners and boat owners have a duty to make sure the water is safe around them before swimming is allowed. Boat and dock owners should also be educated about the potential causes of electric shock drownings and ways to avoid them from occurring. Most often, electrical current passes from wiring on a dock into the water by a metal support or ladder, charging the water to dangerous and lethal levels. Some ways to avoid this include using a plastic ladder instead of metal, checking the wiring around the dock, including the ground fault circuit breaker, or purchasing a device that detects electricity in the water around a dock. [Read Article Here](#).

The attorneys at Lanier & Burroughs have the knowledge and experience to investigate accidents or injuries involving electrical shock. For more information or to speak to one of our attorneys, please contact us today.