



A swimming danger that's invisible but deadly: Electric Shock Drowning

Safety conscious parents insist their children wear life jackets around deep water, but parents and others need to be aware of a different kind of potentially deadly swimming danger: electric shock drowning. Electric current can unsuspectingly lurk in lakes or pools or anywhere electricity can bleed into water and its effects can range from a tingling sensation to paralyzed muscles to death.

Safe Electricity points out that this lesser-known type of drowning can happen when electricity from a dock, boat, pool, hot tub or marina escapes into the water due to faulty wiring or equipment. As swimmers enter electrified water, their muscles can become paralyzed and cause them to drown or they can suffer internal injuries or cardiac arrest. What's more, someone not aware that electricity is flowing through the water could jump into the dangerous waters to try and rescue the person in distress and end up falling victim themselves.

Along with marina personnel, boat captains and owners should also be diligent when it comes to the condition of boating-related electrical systems. "What was safe yesterday could be completely lethal today," Rocky Pointe Marina general manager Jason Whitaker explained. "Boaters need to understand that this is a life or death issue and if their electrical system is not properly maintained or upgraded, it could mean somebody's life," he said. "Many people have died from an (electrical) fault" originating from a boat.

The majority of electric shock drowning deaths have occurred around marinas and docks with AC electrical power, both public and private, according to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association (ESDPA). NEVER swim in or near marinas, docks or boatyards.

If you see what you think is an electric shock drowning:

1. Turn the power source off at the breaker.
2. Throw a life ring but do not enter the water ("reach, throw and row but do not go").
3. Call 9-1-1 or go look for help if no access to phone.

If you feel an electric shock, pulsing or other unusual sensations when you are in the water:

1. Tuck your legs up close to your body; and
2. Swim away from where you think the electricity might be coming from.

Due to conductivity properties of the human body, ESD occurs most often in fresh water. For more information about electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.



ONLINE PAYMENT & BILLING WITH SMARTHUB

Pay your bills on-line with South Central Electric's on-line bill payment system, SmartHub. Download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet from the APP Store or Google Play.

To get started visit our web site southcentralelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.



SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is **\$750**. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



Call our office to learn more at
(507) 375-3164

Protect your home and family with a Briggs & Stratton home standby generator

You can be confident that South Central Electric works hard every day to keep your lights on. For those times when mother nature strikes, we still have you covered with our generator program. You can purchase a whole home Briggs & Stratton Power Protect generator from South Central Electric. If you lose power, the generator automatically takes over. When power is restored, it automatically shuts down. Power when you need it without the hassles of portable or PTO generators.

Estimated Cost of \$9,000 to \$12,500 includes:

- Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect DX with industry leading 10-year warranty.
- Minnesota winter ready with battery warmer, oil heater & battery charger.
- Automatic transfer switch.
- **Electrician installation.**

Generators run on LP or Natural Gas. Estimate does not include costs of gas installation from your gas provider.

Connect with Minnesota's Electric Cooperatives at **FARMFEST**

Join Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives at Farmfest from August 4-6. As Minnesota's premier agricultural event, Farmfest attracts nearly 30,000 attendees and hosts over 500 exhibits and vendors in rural Redwood County each year.

Farmfest serves as a vital platform for addressing political and educational issues impacting farmers and rural communities across Minnesota. From policy discussions to showcasing the latest technological advancements in agriculture, the event offers valuable insights and networking opportunities for all attendees.

Minnesota electric cooperatives have a long history of participating in Farmfest and connecting with our agricultural partners. Be sure to visit our booths where we will be

showcasing tools and technology to make outdoor work easier and demonstrating our commitment to safety with an interactive electrical safety exhibit. Learn firsthand about essential safety measures to keep you and your family safe. See a live safety demonstration illustrating the need for caution when working near or moving large equipment around powerlines. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with Minnesota's electric cooperatives and discover how we're empowering farmers and rural communities across the state.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives are proud to supply the electrical needs of most farms across the state, serving members in every Minnesota county.



Visit us along with other
Minnesota Electric Cooperatives,
at Farmfest 2026 and enter for
a chance to win a grand prize!

FARMFEST 2026

AUGUST 4-6 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2201

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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EMAIL ADDRESS _____

You must be a member of one of the participating
electric cooperatives to be eligible to win.



South Central Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Congratulations to Luke Malmgren for 25 years of service!

For a quarter of a century, Luke Malmgren has played an important role in helping deliver reliable electricity to homes, farms, and businesses. Through changing technologies, challenging weather conditions, his efforts have helped keep the lights on and communities connected. We are grateful for his contributions, commitment, and hard work to the cooperative.

Thank you, Luke, for 25 years of service to SCE and our members!



Business Spotlight

Crystal Valley Cooperative

Crystal Valley



**Owned by
our Members.
Committed to
your Success.**



Agronomy | Energy | Grain | Feed

www.crystalvalley.coop

For nearly a century, Crystal Valley Cooperative has been committed to helping farmers, livestock producers, and rural communities succeed. Crystal Valley is a farmer-owned cooperative serving southern Minnesota and northern Iowa with dependable products, services, and expertise.

Today, Crystal Valley provides a full range of solutions through its core business areas of Agronomy, Grain, Feed, and Energy. From crop nutrients, seed, and precision agriculture services to grain marketing, livestock feed, propane, fuel, and home heating products, Crystal Valley is focused on delivering value and helping customers make informed decisions for their operations.

As a cooperative, Crystal Valley is owned by the people it serves. That means local ownership, local decision-making, and a continued commitment to supporting the success of area farms, businesses, and communities. The cooperative's experienced employees work alongside customers every day, providing trusted advice and dependable service backed by strong relationships and local knowledge.

Community members can support Crystal Valley by doing business with the cooperative, utilizing its agronomy, grain, feed, and energy services, and engaging with local locations throughout southern Minnesota. Whether you're a farmer looking for a trusted partner or a homeowner seeking reliable fuel and energy services, Crystal Valley is proud to serve the region's needs.

To learn more about Crystal Valley Cooperative visit CrystalValley.coop!

**We will be closed July 3 in observance of Independence Day.
Have a safe and happy 4th of July!**



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.