

Press Release
Electric Shock Drowning Hazards at Docks: Call to Action
August 5, 2019

Electricity has been found in the water at over 90% docks tested at Smith Mountain Lake. The source has been traced to a ground wire between the house and dock that is known to deliver lethal voltages/currents to swimmers at docks.

A formal proposal* has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to change regulations in the Virginia Construction Code to eliminate the requirement for the ground wire. Public input is critical to accomplishing this important change. The proposal will be reviewed at a public Work Group meeting at DHCD in Glen Allen (outside Richmond) on August 21st.

Strong in person public support at the August 21 meeting will help this proposal succeed to passage by the House of Delegates. To register, email Nicole Donaldson (Nicole.donaldson@dhcd.virginia.gov) indicating that you wish to attend the Code Development Work Group 1, 2, 3 and 4 meeting on August 21st.

Authors of the proposal will conduct informational meetings at Smith Mountain Lake and Lake Anna on the following dates:

Smith Mountain Lake:

August 8, 2019 at 6 p.m.: Saunders Volunteer Fire Company, 12253 Smith Mountain Parkway, Huddleston

August 15, 2019 at 6 p.m.: Scruggs Volunteer Fire Department, 2130 Bluewater Dr, Moneta

Lake Anna:

August 13 or 14, time and location TBD

Please contact Jim Erler or Neil Harrington for more information

Jim Erler: 434 953 6747; Jim@ErlerDesign.com

Neil Harrington: 703 568 7956; nharrington@smlfireboats.com

*See Under "ESD," click on "Proposal – Remove ESD Hazard at Residential Dock" at <http://smlmfr.com/files.html>