

## ENSURING BOAT DOCKS ARE ELECTRICALLY SAFE

The Electrical Connection is a partnership of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local One and the St. Louis Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). Members of the partnership trace their roots almost to the first commercial use of electricity itself when IBEW Local One was founded in 1891. It created the first-ever apprenticeship training program for the electrical industry in 1941 and since then has trained more than 10,000 electricians and it is the single biggest source of skilled electricians for licensed electrical contractors in the State of Missouri.



A dock that follows all guidelines for electrical safety in Missouri.



All light fixtures are waterproof.

**Administrative Offices:**  
5735 Elizabeth Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110

**Phone:** 314-752-2330  
**Toll Free:** 877-281-2430  
**Fax:** 314-752-5813

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As the state's foremost authority on safe quality electrical installations, the Electrical Connection offers the following tips to boat dock owners to ensure their docks are electrically safe:

- At a minimum all electrical installations should comply with articles 533 (residential docks) and 555 (commercial docks) of the 2011 National Electrical Code which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) on all dock receptacles. A GFCI measures the current in a circuit. An imbalance of that current, such as a discharge into the water, will trip the GFCI cutting power.
- The GFCI should be tested at least once a month or per the manufacturer's specifications. The GFCI should be located somewhere along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily found and tested by local fire departments as needed.
- The metal frame of the dock should have "bonding jumpers" on them to connect all metal parts to a ground rod on the shore. That will ensure any part of the metal dock that becomes energized because of electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI on the circuit breaker.
- Even if your dock's electrical system has been installed by a licensed electrical contractor and inspected, neighboring docks can still present a shock hazard. Ensure your neighbors dockside electrical system complies with the National Electrical Code and has been inspected.
- All electrical installations should be performed by a licensed electrical contractor.
- Because all docks are exposed to the elements, their electrical systems should be inspected at least once a year.

The Lake of the Ozarks is a great place to visit and have fun. Some straight forward applications of the National Electrical Code will help ensure it's a family fun destination.

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The Electrical Connection is the largest single source of licensed electrical contractors in the state of Missouri. To find one in your area, visit [www.electricalconnection.org](http://www.electricalconnection.org).



(Top Left) Disconnect at entry. (Top Middle) Mega Panel. (Top Right) GFI Covered Outlets.  
(Bottom Left) Conduits Anchored Flex. (Bottom Middle) Ground Rod. (Bottom Right) Bonding Jumper.