QUESTION: WHAT IS THE NFPA POSITION ON STRAY VOLTAGE AROUND SWIMMING POOLS?

FACT: Stray voltage exists and can cause serious injury or death. Site conditions, construction variables, along with stray voltage hazard and related injury or death, vary by region.

FACT: The NEC as published represents a “minimum” level of safety and only the local jurisdiction having authority; can implement a greater safety requirement. Liability lies with the local jurisdiction. So if the NEC is only a minimum guideline, then strengthening the Code falls to the “Local Inspection Authority” based on the conditions or “injury/fatality data” that may exist warranting such an amendment.

FACT: Recent injury/fatalities in Texas, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina show a risk pattern in stray voltage around Swimming Pools where only a single wire is installed.

FACT: No occurrences of stray voltage deaths or injuries have been reported where equipotential bonding grid requirements were enforced.

FACT: The Equipotential Bonding Grid has been tested as the safest alternative for protection from Stray Voltage around a Swimming Pool. Testing and data are currently available through verifiable “Independent and Utility Company Sources”.

FACT: The proven risks associated with stray voltage are mitigated with the installation of a “Grid System” around the perimeter of the Swimming Pool.

FACT: Safety should be everyone’s number “1” priority.

CLICK: for the history of how the NFPA previously required a grid in the deck, but later removed it with no testing conducted

Recommendation: Reinstate the 2005 version of the NEC section 680.26 and require a grid installed in the perimeter surface around a pool. Several jurisdictions already have. See www.cmiwebsite.com for more info, Test Reports, testimonials, and blogs.