

Safe Operating Procedures for Working Near Water

Purpose

To define the safe operating procedures in a manner that informs and instructs employees of CUSTOMER of the key health and safety points and controls to remember when working near water.

Background

The following hazards may occur when working around water:

- Drowning
- Sunburn or sunstroke, heat exhaustion
- West Nile Virus due to mosquito bites
- Lightning strike

Personal Protective Equipment

- When working near the water wear an appropriate fitting personal flotation device (PFD) approved by the Coast Guard.
- Before starting shift, apply sunscreen and insect repellent. Reapply as needed.
- Sun hat or cap
- Non-slip water shoes

Safe Operating Procedure

Before you start

Make sure the following safety equipment is in the immediate work area.

- Emergency Phone with emergency number posting
- Lifeline or rope
- Life rings
- Shepherd's crooks
- (PFD's) Personal Flotation Devices
- First Aid Kit
- Water for hydration

When Working Around Water

- Check for loose boards and protruding nails on docks.
- Make sure there are permanent fenders on the docking side of the dock. Check condition of fenders regularly.

- Be aware of soft shoulders on edge of the water and slipping or falling into the water.
- Docks are slippery when wet. Walk with care and do not participate in horseplay.
- Wear shoes around wooden platforms to avoid slivers.
- Do not work around water during a thunder storm.
- Bend from the knees when helping to push off or dock boats at the dock.
- Do not put any part of your body between you and the dock when helping dock a boat. If operators are coming in too fast, let the boat take the damage, not your body.

Additional Resources

SOP – Boating Activities
SOP – Wading Activities

Document Management

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