

Working Near Water

All employees must adhere to the following safe operating procedures for working near water.

Background

The following hazards may occur when working around water:

- Drowning
- Caught in, under, or between material and equipment (equipment rollover, vessels and docks)
- Slips, trips and falls from temporary or permanent obstruction, working on wet surfaces
- Sunburn or sunstroke, heat exhaustion
- Hypothermia
- Illnesses due to bug bites (ex: ticks, mosquitoes)
- Lightning strike

Personal Protective Equipment

- Employees should always wear an appropriate fitting personal flotation device (PFD) approved by Transport Canada while working on the docks/around water when working alone. If there are two employees present on the dock where one is acting as the spotter, then employees can opt out of the PFD requirement.
- Before starting a shift, apply sunscreen and insect repellent. Reapply as needed.
- Sun hat or cap
- Non-slip shoes or water shoes

Safe Operating Procedures

Before you start

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

- Communication device – (ie. 2-way radio, cell phone, or emergency phone with emergency number posting)
- Lifeline or rope
- Life rings
- Shepard's crooks
- (PFD's) Personal Flotation Devices
- First Aid Kit

All employees should be aware of rescue safety devices in the event a fellow employee or client needs to be rescued from the water. Employees will practice using proper

rescue equipment before each season and once per month until season closes.

When Working Around Water

Do:

- Check for loose boards and protruding nail on docks.
- Make sure there are permanent fenders on the docking side of the dock. Check condition of fenders regularly.
- Keep docks/platform areas neat and tidy at all times.
- Be aware of soft shoulders on edge of the water and slipping or falling into the water.
- Walk with care. Docks are slippery when wet.
- Wear shoes around wooden platforms to avoid slivers.
- Bend from the knees when helping to push off or dock boats at the dock.

Do Not:

- Do not participate in horseplay.
- Do not work around water during a thunderstorm.
- 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.

Approved By:	Issue Date:	Revision Date:
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For further information, see the appropriate current Occupational Health & Safety Legislation.