

WORKING ON OR NEAR WATER

ALL-A0A-00-000-HGL-0023 03/24/2020



CANADA HSE GUIDELINE

Purpose: To provide guidance for working safely over or near water bodies (within 1.5m (5 ft.)) where the risk of drowning exists.

- Natural Water Bodies**
- Work must be conducted by a minimum of two persons
 - Workers must each don a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
 - A ring buoy with at least 27m (90 ft.) of ½" polyester rope must be within 8m (24 ft.) of the workspace at all times.
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- Flowing Water Bodies**
- Work must be conducted by a minimum of two persons
 - Workers shall each don a PFD
 - A written and approved rescue plan for downstream recovery is required
 - Emergency communication must be available and tested
 - A ring buoy with at least 27m (90 ft.) of ½" polyester rope must be within 8m (24 ft.) of the workspace at all times.
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- Frozen Water Bodies**
- Develop a written hazard assessment based on work activity
 - Test ice thickness. Requirements:
 - one person = 10cm (4") thick
 - one snowmobile or ATV = 13cm (5") thick
 - Follow requirements from the above sections.
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- Manmade Water Containment (C-rings/Sumps/Pits/Ponds)**
- Workers must don a PFD if based on the worker's positioning, the containment (e.g., guardrails) does not provide protection from falls into the water.
 - Communication with back-up support can be via, camera, radio, direct voice communication or other appropriate means
 - All C-ring catwalks must be at least 50cm (20") in width with guardrails present
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- Scouting (Remote)**
- A documented hazard assessment is required
 - An electronic monitoring system is required
 - Workers must each don a PFD
 - Vehicle entry into water is only permitted per federal and provincial regulations
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Water Hauling

- Set up transfer lines to limit the operator's exposure to a water body during water transfer operations
- Transfer lines should be removed at end of the job/project
- Conduct hazard assessments as required.

Boats

- Work from a boat shall be conducted by a minimum of two persons
- Workers must each don a PFD
- A ring buoy with at least 27m (90ft) of ½" polyester rope attached is present for use as a heaving line.
- Ensure an anchor with at least 15m (50ft) of rope and a hand bailer are present in the boat.
- Follow Natural or Flowing Water Body requirements above, as applicable
- Boat operators shall be trained and competent per federal and provincial boat regulations

Working in Water

- A documented and approved hazard assessment is required
 - Only trained and competent workers shall enter the water
 - Hazards to mitigate must address freshet, water velocity, water depth
 - A rescue plan and communication means are available
 - The hazard assessment must address go/no go scenarios.
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