



Working Over or Near Water

Subject: Procedures and Guidelines for Working Over or Near Water

Applies to: All employees

Pages: 2

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Supersedes: New

Approved by: University of Western Ontario Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee

PURPOSE:

This work procedure is intended to reduce hazards to personnel who work over or near water and to prevent injury or fatality from falling into the water.

APPLICATION:

This procedure applies to any worker who is potentially exposed to the hazard of falling into water that is of sufficient depth for a life jacket to be effective as protection from the risk of drowning.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

All University employees who are required to perform work over or near water must comply with this work procedure.

HAZARDS/RISKS:

1. Drowning, hypothermia.
2. Falling, tripping.
3. Slippery surfaces.

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

1. Pole and life hook
2. Ring buoy
3. Certified Floation Device

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Personal Protective Equipment must be worn as required by the task being performed. In addition, workers working within four feet of water edge must wear certified floatation device.

PROCEDURE:

1. Perform visual inspection of area noting potential overhead and other hazards that are not in the normal field of vision.
2. For work to be performed near water and more than four feet from pool edge, erect sufficient barricades four feet away from the pool edge by using traffic cones, hoardings, plastic fencing, or caution tape to serve as a warning system when a worker unintentionally approaches the pool edge.
3. For work to be performed above water and/or within four feet of water edge, another worker who can immediately summon emergency rescue must stand guard.
4. Certified and properly sized floatation devices must be worn by any guard and all workers working above water or within four feet of pool edge. Prior to each use, the floatation devices must be inspected for defects which would alter their strength, buoyancy, or fastening capability. Defective units must be taken out of service immediately.
5. Workers must know how to use rescue equipment such as “pole & life hook” and “ring buoy”; this can be demonstrated by Campus Recreation Staff.
6. Use caution when walking on wet surfaces.