

# Working Near Water



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## Purpose

To ensure employees who are required to work or travel near water are provided with information and instruction to protect their health and safety

## Scope

This policy applies to all Bernard Rochefort Ltd. employees and operations.

## Policy

Bernard Rochefort Ltd. does undertake some projects that involve working near water. This policy is intended to describe the minimum requirements for all operations. All work near water shall be undertaken as a planned work activity that recognized and addresses the hazards.

## Legislation

Construction Regulations 213/97 section 27:

- (1) a worker who may drown shall wear a life jacket
- (2) if a worker may drown at a project
  - A. at least two workers trained to perform rescue operation shall be available to perform rescue operation
  - B. rescue equipment shall be provided in a suitable location on or near the project; and
  - C. All workers on the project shall be advised of the rescue procedures to be followed and their roles, if any, in carrying out a rescue
- (3) the rescue equipment shall include,
  - A. a seaworthy boat equipment with a rig buoy attached to fifteen meters of polypropylene rope that is 9.5 mm in diameter, a boat hook and, for every person required for a rescue operation using an boat, a life jacket;
  - B. If there is a current in the water, a line extending across the providing support for a person in the water; and
  - C. An alarm system capable of warning a worker of the necessity of carrying out a rescue operation.
- (4) the boat shall be power driven if the water is likely to be rough or swift
- (5) the alarm system shall be activated when a rescue operation is necessary
- (6) in this section "lifejacket" means a personal flotation device that provides buoyancy adequate to keep a worker's above water, face up, without effort by the worker.

## GENERAL

### Emergency Response Plan:

A plan containing a set of instructions intended to be initiated when responding to an emergency situation. While the water temperature & conditions should dictate the content of the plan, at a minimum it must contain the following components:

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- When to activate the plan
- who to call in case of emergency (including phone numbers)
- how to call (ex: communication options, cell vs. satellite phones, etc...)
- Procedures to manage hypothermia
- Roles and Responsibilities

## **Mandatory Requirements:**

- a personal floatation device must be worn by the employee
- all employees who will be working near or travelling on water must complete a water safety training program that includes:
  - Hazards Identifications and avoidance
  - Extraction and emergency procedures in response to falling in the water
  - Self rescue skills once out the water
- a boundary marker or a physical barricade to be erected around open holes where workers or the public could be exposed to falling in the water

**Time of training:** prior to employees working

**Delivery of Training:** Emergency Response Plan to be discussed with all workers prior to commencing work near water.

**Responsibility to Ensure Training:** Supervisor

## **Minimum Training required:**

Employees must have knowledge and understand the following:

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- Locally established emergency response plan (ex: Check in/out system, procedures)
- Communication protocol including what means of communication is available
- Means of egress from vehicles (where appropriate)

### Hazard Identification / Avoidance

- the relationship between weather, water temperature, currents, springs, snow cover and other influences that directly or indirectly affect the nature of the ware and shoreline.
- the difference between rivers and lakes
- Natural or manmade hazards that may influence ice (ex: bridges, pressure ridges, floating deadheads, etc...)

### Water Temperature Sampling

- Methods that can be used for sampling
- Safe travel area around sampling hole

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## Personal Protective Equipment

- Personal Floatation Device, Floater / survival suit
- Use of self-extraction tools
- Use of quick release belt
- Fall arrest equipment

## Extraction and Emergency Procedures

- what to expect when you hit the water
- how does the body respond to sudden immersion in cold water
- hypothermia, its cause, effects, and First Aid treatment
- factors affecting bodily response to cold water (ex: weight, clothing, etc...)
- principles of rescue
  - evaluate the scene
  - evaluate the victim
  - determine what resources are available (ex: warm vehicle, other persons)

## Self-Rescue skills

- once out of the water
  - establish the first priorities (ex: shelter, warmth, communication)
  - effects of temperature, wind and other environments conditions
  - call 911 for emergency services

## **Approval & Acknowledgement:**

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Rhéaume Rochefort

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Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Date:

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