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| <i>Hazard Review</i> | |
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| <i>Related SWPs</i> | |
| • Lifting, Body Mechanics and Ergonomics | |
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| <i>Required Personal Protective Equipment</i> | |
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| • Protective Footwear | |
| • Ring Buoys | |
| <i>Authority</i> | |
| • CCR Title 8 Section 1602, 3389 | |
| Prepared by: | P. Rossi, B. Chipman, H. Stoermer, M. Peterson |
| Approved by: | J. Bramlett, EHS Program Manager B. Palacio, Superintendent of Recreation and Community Services A. Alvarez, Superintendent of Parks and Open Spaces S. Flannery, Superintendent of Structural Maintenance K. Petrucione, Director of Administration and Finance K. Gee, Director of Human Resources D. Kern, Director of Operations P. Ginsburg, General Manager |
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This safe work practice addresses the hazards of working around or over water and is organized into the following areas:

- A. General
- B. Special Situations
 - Lake Entry
 - Securing Vessels

The General section is intended to provide information that applies to most assignments. The section on Special Situations applies to unique environments and related hazards that require additional controls.

This safe work practice (SWP) applies to any work that is done near water and where the possibility of drowning exists (e.g. replacing boards on the Marina docks, or applying pesticides in a lake). Drowning can occur in water that is not very deep, so while a puddle would not require adherence to this SWP, working over water only a few feet deep most likely will. In most cases, it will be sustained work in a defined work area.

This SWP is dedicated to helping you avoid an injury or illness from known hazards. We advise you to follow these recommendations.

The known hazard and potential injury or illness related to working around or over water based on RPD injury and illness data include:

| Known Hazard | Potential Injury, Illness |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>Physical Hazards</u> | |
| Slips/falls | Bruise, contusion, sprain, strain, fracture from fall and impact, drowning |

All tasks require that you:

- Use any equipment in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the manufacturer. This includes following all signs and labels, and reviewing any manufacturer's operating manuals.
 - If the instructions provided in the operating manual conflict with this SWP, then follow the instructions in the manual. The manufacturer's instructions prevail over this SWP.
- Train on this SWP and those listed above as related. Training on SWPs must be completed before initial assignment. It is also recommended that you complete refresher training every two years.

You are advised to read and follow this SWP and any related SWPs.

A. GENERAL

Before

1. Complete required training. This includes:
 - a review of any applicable manufacturer's operating manual.
 - training on this SWP and those listed as related. These must be completed before the initial assignment and every 2 years thereafter.
2. When working where the danger of drowning exists, unless you are continuously protected by railings, nets, or safety belts, the following safety devices are required:
 - Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). When working on the docks and performing repairs or other maintenance, employees shall wear U. S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices that are marked or labeled Type I PFD, Type II PFD, or Type III PFD, or a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type V PFD that is marked or labeled for use as a work vest for commercial use or for use on vessels; **and**

- Ring Buoys. U. S. Coast Guard approved 30-inch ring buoys with at least 150 feet of 600 pound capacity line shall be readily available for emergency rescue operations. Distance between ring buoys shall not exceed 200 feet at the work site; **and**
- Lifesaving Boats. One or more lifesaving boats, either manually or power-operated, shall be provided and readily accessible at all times. Lifesaving boats shall be properly maintained, ready for emergency use and equipped with oars and oarlocks attached to the gunwales, boathook, anchor, ring buoy with 50 feet of 600 pound capacity line and two life preservers. Oars are not required on boats that are powered by an inboard motor.
 - a. For locations other than those addressed above, an employee working within 6 feet of a body of water where the danger of drowning exists should wear a PFD, or have a signed a waiver stating that they are able to swim on file with their supervisor.

During

3. Immediately report any problem or deficiencies you notice during your shift. Do not wait until the end of your shift to address a serious safety issue. If the problem is serious, make it your responsibility to have the equipment removed from service.

B. SPECIFIC TASKS

Lake Entry

Before

4. Two people are required for this task; one person enters the lake and the other person will remain onshore as a safety watch.
5. Remove obvious debris or other items which might contribute to the hazards of entry.
6. Know the approximate depth of the lake before entry and plan accordingly. For example, a boat may be required in lieu of wading into the lake.

During

7. Watch for hazards, particularly:
 - submerged items that you cannot see but which might cause you to stumble (rocks, logs, debris).
 - different depths of silt that might impair your ability to walk.

8. Use a support cane or walking stick during entry if it is slippery or necessary.
9. Do not:
 - get water into face or in mouth.
 - eat or drink during entry.

After

10. Wash hands, arms and face with antibacterial soap.
11. Change into clean clothes and wash clothing in hot water.
12. Do not eat or drink until you have washed as noted above.

Securing Vessels with a Broken Line

Before

13. Obtain new dock lines to be used.

During

14. Remove the broken line from the boat and the dock.
15. Secure the line to the dock using the ring bolt with a bowline, or the cleat with a half hitch, and secure the line to the boat using the on-board cleat with a half hitch.
16. Use proper body mechanics (see the Lifting, Body Mechanics and Ergonomics SWP). Use your thighs and not your back. Keep the task as close to your body as possible. Avoid twisting.
17. During a storm or an emergency, remain calm and do not hurry. It is not uncommon for the area to be wet and slippery and you may encounter erratic movement on the docks or vessels.

After

18. Complete the paperwork in a secure area such as a work truck, shop or office.

For any questions, please contact EHS at 415-831-2780.

References:

1. FACE Investigation Report, Marina Worker Drowns After Falling Into Water, FACE#97-NJ-022-01, 1997.
2. Vessel Safety Check Website, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=i-want-a-vsc>.