
Working On, In or Near Water Standard

1.0 PURPOSE

This standard supports the Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment Policy and specifies the **base** requirements for working on, in or near water. **Refer to the Working On, In or Near Water Standard Operating Procedure for full details.**

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Life Jacket

A Canadian approved standard lifejacket, when worn properly, is designed to turn an unconscious person from face down to face up in the water, allowing them to breathe. The standard lifejacket is keyhole style and comes in two sizes - one for people who weigh over 40 kg (90 lbs.), and one for people who weigh less than 40 kg (90 lbs.). Standard lifejackets must be orange, yellow or red, and have a whistle attached.

2.2 Personal Flotation Device

A Canadian approved PFD is designed to keep you afloat in the water. PFDs were designed for use in recreational boating and are generally smaller, less bulky and more comfortable than lifejackets. They have less flotation than lifejackets, and have limited turning capacity, but are available in a variety of styles and colours **and shall have a whistle attached.**

2.3 Waders (hip or chest)

A waterproof boot extending from the foot to the thigh, hip or chest, traditionally made from vulcanized rubber, but available in more modern PVC, neoprene and Gore-Tex variants.

3.0 METHOD / PRACTICE

3.1 Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessments

Upon a hazard and risk assessment that identifies work will be done on, in or near water, the worker shall:

- Determine if a life jacket or personal flotation device is required and ensure it is inspected prior to each use.
- Be provided with a life jacket or personal flotation device when transported by boat or works from a boat, and that each worker uses the life jacket or personal flotation device at all times when the worker is in the boat.
- Have rescue equipment kept readily available.
- Follow the Working Alone Standard, as required.
- Inform any designated watch person of the emergency plans including contact information.
- Maintain situational awareness at all times.

3.2 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Standard PPE will be required for all activities being performed on, in or near water in accordance with the PPE Policy.

PPE specific to work activities on, in or near water shall be provided and may include, but is not limited to life preservers, waders and steel toed rubber boots.

4.0 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIAL

SaskPower Divisions shall provide information on the proper care, use, selection and limitations of CSA approved life jackets and personal flotation devices.

SaskPower Divisions will follow established Safe Work Procedures and work processes that follow the Working On, In or Near Water Standard.

5.0 REFERENCES

- Saskatchewan
 - *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*
- SaskPower (Located on SafetyNet)
 - Flood Safety Directive
 - Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment Policy
 - Personal Protective Equipment Policy
 - **Working On, In or Near Water Standard Operating Procedure (SOP Online)**