

Health and Safety Standard

WORKING ON, IN OR NEAR WATER

1 PURPOSE

This standard establishes the requirements for working on, in or near water.

2 SCOPE

This standard identifies requirements for working on, in or near a body of water including personal protective equipment and environmental needed to address the special nature of this work. This standard does not apply where the water is entirely covered by ice.

This standard outlines the minimum requirements that shall be met or exceeded by SaskPower workers and contractors. Failure to comply may result in injuries, damage to equipment and property, environmental harm, performance management or any combination thereof.

The use of the word “shall” within this standard denotes a mandatory action, whereas the use of the word “should” or “may” denotes a recommended action.

3 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this standard:

Lifejacket – is a keyhole or vest type flotation device that that is designed to turn an unconscious person face up in the water, and are only available in yellow, orange or red for visibility. Lifejackets may use foam, air or other gas to provide flotation.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD) – is a flotation device that is designed to provide sufficient buoyancy to keep a person’s head above water. PFD’s have less flotation than a Lifejacket, come in many colours and varieties for different applications and may use foam, air or other gas to provide flotation.

4 REQUIREMENTS

4.1 HAZARD/ASPECT AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Upon a hazard/aspect and risk assessment that identifies work on, in or near a body of water, the worker shall:

- Refer and apply the SaskPower [Working On, In or Near Water Standard Operating Procedure](#).
- Determine what personal protective equipment is required when working on, in or near water.
- Have any environmental permit for the work present and available onsite.
- Review environmental permit conditions documenting all aspects and controls on their hazard/aspect and risk assessment.
- Avoid refuelling or servicing mobile equipment on, in or near water.
- Use containment for small stationary equipment such as pumps or generators.
- Have a spill kit suitable to clean up any potential hazardous material spills readily available.
- Report all spills to SaskPower Environment.

4.2 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Standard PPE shall be used for all activities being performed on, in or near water in accordance with the Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment Policy. In addition, the workers shall also:

- wear a Lifejacket or PFD that has been approved by Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard or Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Lifejacket or PFD shall be an auto-inflating design if they are inflatable or shall use foam for flotation. Inflatable flotation devices are not allowed for working on or around ice.
- wear a harness with sternal D-ring and a minimum 30m long polypropylene rope that is 15mm in diameter to assist in rescue. This is required to work at a place that has no guard rail and where the worker could fall and drown.

4.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIALS

SaskPower shall provide information on the proper care, use; selection and limitations of approved life jackets and/or personal flotation devices from Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Fisheries and Oceans Canada or, any combination of the above.

Employees shall refer to the SaskPower Working On, In or Near Water Standard Operating Procedure for full details.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

The requirements of this version of the standard are to be met immediately following the approval date at which time the previous version will be superseded.

6 RESOURCES

6.1 INTERNAL RESOURCES

Related Policies:	Hazard /Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Policy Personal Protective Equipment Policy
References:	Working On, In or Near Water Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
Related Standards:	Working Alone Standard Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Standard

6.2 EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Related Legislation:	<i>The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020</i>
Additional Information:	Transport Canada - Choosing Lifejackets and PFD's

Ownership

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