

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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Week of 11//11/24

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

WORKING SAFELY AROUND WATER

Have you ever thought about how many structures are located near water? Many populated areas lie near the Atlantic or Pacific coasts or along mighty rivers or great lakes. But even if you don't live or work around any of these large bodies of water, there are still numerous waterways, canals, creeks, and lakes across the country. What does this have to do with construction safety? It's a reminder that sometimes our work requires us to be around, near, or over water. Bridge repair, flood wall construction, pier work, water treatment plants, power plants, and wastewater plants are all located near water.

What would happen if you fell in while working carelessly over water? First there would be the shock of hitting the water. Unlike diving in from a 3-meter board, hitting the water from a height can really hurt! You might have a hard time staying afloat if you were wearing jeans, a shirt, coveralls, heavy footwear, and possibly a tool belt. The water would probably be cold, too. As the weather gets colder, fall protection becomes even more necessary — wearing only conventional clothing, hypothermia can quickly become a problem, and ice can really hurt! Having a fall protection system in place is important when working above the water.

Be sure to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) like a life jacket or buoyant work vest. These will help keep your head above water in a position that lets you breathe properly. They will also help keep you at the surface if you are knocked unconscious. Wear a PFD that fits well and is approved by the Coast Guard for your needs.

Know the location of jobsite phones and call immediately if someone falls in. If help will be awhile in arriving and you attempt to rescue the victim, remember this phrase: row, throw, then go. The safest rescue for the rescuer is by boat; in fact, OSHA regulations require that at least one life saving skiff be immediately available. Another option that keeps the rescuer in a safe position is to extend one's reach by throwing a ring buoy, or reaching with a pole or even a towel. Ring buoys with at least 90 feet of line must be provided at the site and readily available for emergency use. Only as a last resort should you go into the water to help the victim. Even a strong swimmer may have trouble with the current, the water temperature, or a struggling victim.

Safety around water is also important when you're not on the job. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, more than 700 people die in boating-related incidents each year. Ninety percent of those that drown will not be wearing a PFD. It's up to you to look out for your own personal safety when you're around water.

Swimming pools can be dangerous too.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Be careful working around pools
and never swim alone.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____