

Great Western Painting

Working Near Water

WORKING NEAR WATER

Working over or near water. - 1926.106

Employees working over or near water, where the danger of drowning exists, will be provided with U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets or buoyant work vests.

Prior to and after each use, the buoyant work vests or life preservers will be inspected for defects which would alter their strength or buoyancy. Defective units will be removed from service and not be used.

It is important to note that the provisions of our fall protection program require that fall protection (guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system) be provided when working 6 or more feet above a lower level and this would include water. If fall protection is being used then the danger of drowning does not exist and life jackets or buoyant work vests are not required.

If a safety net system, alone, is used for fall protection, then the life preservers are required because of the remote possibility that heavy material falling into the safety net may damage the net.

In addition to the above, and in all cases irrespective of fall protection, the following applies:

- a. Ring buoys with at least 90 feet of line will be provided and readily available for emergency rescue operations. Distance between ring buoys may not exceed 200 feet.
- b. At least one lifesaving skiff will be immediately available at locations where employees are working over or adjacent to water.
 1. Medical response: Because emergency medical response is required to be available within a reasonable time (3 to 4 minutes), either medical personnel or an employee certified in first aid must be on the skiff. A first aid kit will be on the skiff.

Note: If the water is extremely cold, the required response time may be shorter.

2. The skiff must be capable of providing rescue dependent on the specific hazards, for example, rocks or rapids.

Under no circumstances and at any time, will employees working over or near water, where the danger of drowning exists, work alone.

Training:

Because each situation is unique where employees may have to work over or near water where the danger of drowning exist, training will be given **prior to performing the work.**

Employees will be trained by a competent, qualified, person. Training will address the hazards as well as the responsibilities and safe work practices appropriate for the specific tasks to be performed.

Additionally, as part of the task specific training, a **pre-task plan** will be completed and **signed** by all members of the crew before working over or near water.

The pre-task plan will contain:

1. names of the crew members
2. the responsibility of each crew member
3. the specific work to be done
4. the location of the work
5. the time of the work
6. special equipment required, if any
7. special training required, if any
8. the potential hazards associated with the work
9. the methods of eliminating the hazards
10. emergency rescue procedures
11. communication procedures.