

# safety matters

Construction

Toolbox Talks

From your safety partners at **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

## Working Near Water Safely

Working on a construction site that is located over or near water comes with a set of very serious dangers. Even if you are a good swimmer, working around water means that you are exposed the risk of:

- Slipping and falling
- Drowning
- Being trapped
- Being hurt on impact when falling into the water
- Hypothermia
- Infections transferred through water

### Everyday Precautions

To keep yourself safe, follow these guidelines regarding working near water:

- Make sure that your working platform is secure and free of any tripping hazards, such as tools, wire, timber or bricks.

- Ensure that surfaces do not become slippery by cleaning, gritting them or applying industrial salt or sand.
- Check that access ladders, guardrails and toe boards are firmly fixed in position.
- Wear a safety helmet at all times. If something hits you on the head and you fall into the water, you are at a high risk of injury or death.
- Wear a life jacket and ensure that it is properly fastened.
- Use any safety nets or safety harnesses provided.
- Check that lifebuoys fitted with lifelines are close at hand for immediate use in the event of an emergency.
- Ensure that there is a skiff or safety boat and that it is manned while you work above water

**Even if you are a good swimmer, working around water means that you are exposed to several serious risks.**



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- If you are above tidal water or a fast-flowing river, safety boats must have a motor with a self-starting device.
- Notify your supervisor if there are not one or more ring buoys located at 45-metre intervals across the work area.
- Know how the alarm system works and how to sound it for an emergency or a rescue drill.
- Count the number of workers on site, and check that everyone is present on a regular basis.

### **Barges and Work Platforms**

If you are working on a floating work platform without railings (not in a cab or equipment compartment), be sure that you are wearing a life jacket.

If you have any doubt about your safety on site, ask your supervisor. At , your safety comes first.

### **Life Jackets**

No matter what happens, it is crucial for your safety that you wear an approved life jacket whenever there is danger of you falling in the water. For your safety:

- Before and after each use, inspect your life jacket for defects that might weaken it or prevent it from floating.
- Fasten all the latches on your life jacket.

### **Looking Out for Each Other**

Whenever you are working on a job near water, do not work alone. It is very important that you and your co-workers keep a constant eye on each other.

- Pick a buddy and periodically check in with each other.

