



Weekly Safety Meetings

Safety Training for the Construction Industry

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Premium Membership

COMPANY NAME: _____

Library 26-32

Working Over or Near Water

Any time you work over or near water, you are exposed to the hazard of falling into the water and drowning. OSHA requires that employees wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or buoyant work vest wherever there is a drowning hazard. These personal flotation devices (PFDs) are designed to keep you floating, with your head above water, until you can be rescued.

PFDs should be worn every time you work around water. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size. Make sure your flotation device is the proper size for you. Inspect your PFD before you put it on. Look for broken straps, buckles, or zippers and check for tears in the material. Never wear a faulty or defective flotation device. When wearing your PFD, keep it fastened at all times. If you fall into the water with an unfastened PFD, it may slip off and leave you to drown as it floats away. Like your hard hat, a PFD only works if you're wearing it.

It's important to remember that even if you know how to swim, you must wear your PFD. There are several instances when you may not be able to keep yourself afloat on your own. For instance, if you strike an object as you fall into the water, you could become unconscious and your chances of drowning increase. Secondly, no matter how strong a swimmer you are, it's very difficult to swim when you are fully clothed, wearing boots and a tool belt. The extra 40 to 50

pounds can make it almost impossible to move. In these cases, your PFD could save your life.

If your job requires that you or anyone in the crew work over or near a body of water, make sure you know the emergency plan to follow. Be aware of your responsibilities in case one of your co-workers is in a water emergency. If you fall in the water, try to remove your tool belt at once. If possible, try to take off your boots so they don't weigh you down. If you can, swim to safety. Never work alone near water.

Working over or near water can be very safe. Don't take any chances with your life. Wear your personal protective equipment at all times. It may save you when the unexpected happens.

You should also keep water safety in mind when you're off the job. Never swim alone! Teach your children about water safety rules before you enjoy recreational activities near water. Make sure your family wears PFDs when you are out on the water enjoying vacations and holidays.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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The best way to handle a water emergency is to reduce the chance of it happening.

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED MSDS # _____ SUBJECT: _____

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME: _____

MEETING DATE: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

ATTENDEES: _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.