

Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

March 2023

Volume 24, Number 3

Safe Operating Procedures Around Water

Working around, over, or near water is a safety hazard that may result in entrapment and drowning.

Is my life jacket correct?

Life jackets come in sizes to fit babies through large adults. They are intended to keep you afloat in lakes, rivers, pools and other bodies of water. Worn correctly, they work!



Best Practices:

- **Conduct daily workplace exams**, especially for loose material along haul roads and travel areas near water.
- **Know water depth, subsurface conditions, and ground conditions before work begins.**
- **Keep equipment a safe distance from the water's edge.**
- **Avoid traveling over ice-covered water.**
- **Provide secure and stable handrails** at workboats and dredges and around docks.
- **Make certain berms are continuous and at least mid-axle high near water hazards.**
 - **Miners must wear a securely fastened life vest for the entire time they work on water.**
- **Keep water rescue equipment easily accessible.**
- **Know where extra PDFs and rescue rings are.**
- **Provide good housekeeping** and keep all travel ways clear around water hazards; areas where miners travel must be free of tripping hazards, so make sure all work areas are clean and orderly.

ODM O.S. 45, §917 - Personal Protection - Rules and Procedures

6. Life jackets or belts shall be worn where there is danger of falling into deep water.

MSHA § 56.15020 Life jackets and belts.

Life jackets or belts shall be worn where there is danger from falling into water.

Why are life jackets necessary? Sometimes small things don't seem important to so many of us. Did you know that last year (2022) we lost 3 miners to drowning? 3 out of the 29 fatalities were tied to this conversation!