Hazard Alert – Water Related Fatalities

19 water related fatalities since 2004 in metal/nonmetal

Working Near Water Hazards

HAZARD - Working around, over, or near water

POTENTIAL OUTCOME - entrapment, drowning

RISKS – Traveling or operating equipment near water, equipment weight and vibration, undercut banks, sloughing ground, varied water depth, swift currents.

Best Practices

• Conduct daily workplace examinations
• Be familiar with the body of water, water depth and subsurface conditions before you begin work
• Keep equipment a safe distance back from the water’s edge
• Avoid traveling over ice covered water
• Provide handrails around docks and work boats
• Properly berm roadways near water hazards
• Wear a Coast Guard approved Type I or Type V personal flotation device (PFD) when working around water
• Keep water rescue equipment easily accessible
• Know where extra PFDs and rescue rings are stowed
• Practice good housekeeping and keep travelways clear around water hazards
• Post warning signs near water hazards

WATER RELATED FATALITIES CAN BE PREVENTED