

Hazard Alert – Water Related Fatalities



24 water related fatalities in metal nonmetal since 2005!

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, inadequate berms, narrow roadways, electrocution.



Best Practices

- Conduct daily workplace examinations.
- Know the water depth and subsurface conditions and ground 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.
- **Always** wear a Coast Guard approved Type I or Type V personal flotation device (PFD) when working around water, even when inside mobile equipment. Auto-inflatable, if possible.
- Keep water rescue equipment easily accessible.
- Know where extra PFDs and rescue rings are stowed.
- Practice good housekeeping and keep all travel ways clear around water hazards.



*The topic for this **Safety Alert** was suggested by the State of Oklahoma Department of Mines. If you have a suggestion for a future **Alert**, please submit it to MNMAccidentPrevention@dol.gov*