

Working Near Water

- Precautions must be taken to prevent persons tripping, falling or being swept into the water.
- Site tidiness is of special importance in minimising trip hazards.
- Illumination is essential for night work.
- Guardrails, ladders, safety nets, barriers and harnesses must be in good condition.
- Systems must ensure that people who do fall into water are rescued in the shortest possible time.
- Life-jackets or buoyancy aids should be worn when working near water.
- Lifebuoys and rescue lines should be set at intervals along the workings.
- A rescue boat should be provided when working over tidal water or fast flowing rivers.
- Operatives should work in pairs so that there is always one to raise the alarm.
- Some effective means of raising an alarm must exist.
- Periodic checks should be made to ensure nobody is missing



Did you know?

Three quarters of all drowning incidents occur in inland water with well over half in canals, reservoirs, gravel pits and lakes.

Most people who drown can swim.

Q: What type of underfoot conditions would be a problem when working near water?