

Manual Section 7	Issue Date 11/19/10	Revision Date 01/01/24	Policy Number LLCP-120
	<b>Working Near Water</b>		

**Purpose**

This policy has been developed to provide safety guidance to any Company employee who may be working near or over water.

**Scope**

All LLC Companies including, Blanchard Industrial, LLC, GIS Engineering, LLC, Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc., and GWIS, Mack Steel, NuWave, Sun Industries, Valvemax, Discovery Industries, Inc.; hereafter identified as “Company”.

**Policy**

Employees who may work over or near water, where the danger of drowning exists, are not permitted to work alone at any time and shall be provided with and wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket or buoyant work vest when the danger of drowning exists.

A JSEA (Pre-Task Plan) is required to be completed and signed by all members of the crew that may be working over or near water before the work may begin. The JSEA shall have emergency procedures within the document or a separate document with emergency response plan shall be developed.

These PFD’s will differ depending on the task being performed or the intent of the user. Ensure that the appropriate type vest is worn for the purpose of the wearer. All PFD’s shall be inspected for defects which could alter their strength or buoyancy prior to and after each use. Defective units shall not be used and shall be replaced.

Ring buoys (with location lights) must be provided when employees are working near water with at least 90 feet of line and the distance between ring buoys may not exceed 200 feet and be readily available for emergency rescue purposes. At least one lifesaving skiff shall be made immediately available when employees are working over or adjacent to water. This lifesaving skiff shall be equipped with the necessary equipment for maneuverability and rescue of a victim.

**Working Over or Near Water at Night**

The Company understands that in our industry, there will be times where employees will have to work at night. However when this happens over water (i.e. working or erecting scaffolding), the Company has established a few requirements to coincide with safe work procedures to assure that our employees can perform their tasks safely.

When Company employees or subcontractors are to work over water at night, the following shall be followed:

- There is to be adequate lighting for the whole of the period of work. Lighting must be adequate for night work and must illuminate the surrounding water surface to assure rescue of any person that may fall into the water.
- A U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket or buoyant work vest, shall be worn by all personnel working over water
- Suitable rescue equipment, for example a platform rescue boat, boathook, lifebelt or lifeline is to be in position and checked as serviceable before work is permitted to commence.

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- Standby vessel is near and in standby mode or in extra preparedness mode
  - Contact shall be made with the vessel and they shall be briefed on the current situation.
- Personnel shall be familiar with all procedures, preconditions, risks and safety precautions relating to the work.
- A “*safety lookout*” must be present and monitor the personnel located over water at all times.
- The *safety lookout* shall be familiar with and carry out tasks stated in the Safety Lookout’s duties in connection with work over water.

### **Duties for the Safety Lookout During Work Over Water at Night**

The Safety Lookout shall be clearly identified in the JSEA and marked with some form of identifying clothing or PPE.

#### ***Before the task is started***

The Safety Lookout shall:

- Participate in the work planning, including JSEA – pre-job meetings
- Locate the nearest fire call point/communication device
- Ensure that the agreed upon rescue boat/stand-by boat is in the area, notified and operational
- Establish and check communications with the facility, responding personnel and rescue vessel.
- Ensure escape routes are known by involved personnel

#### ***During work***

The Safety Lookout shall:

- Inform rescue boat/stand-by boat at start, interruption and completion of work
- Be located at a permanent deck of the facility and have an unhindered view of the personnel working over water
- Not take part in work that may interfere with his/her duty as safety lookout
- Monitor changes in weather conditions/visibility and light; and stop the work if conditions and limitations for the work are exceeded
- Monitor the work and surroundings and stop work should a situation arise that calls for such action

#### ***If “man overboard” occurs***

- Maintain visual contact with person in the water at all times
- Notify additional personnel according to man overboard procedures
- Order all personnel to stop work immediately and assemble on the permanent deck
- Activate alarm (as long as doing so does not interrupt continuous eye contact with personnel in water)
- Throw out a life buoy (with locator light)
- Assist with retrieval as appropriate according to the emergency plan

### **Cold Water Facts**

Be aware that cold water (less than 70 degrees F) can lower your body temperature. This is called hypothermia. If your body temperature drops too low, you may pass out and then drown. Even if you are wearing a PFD, your body can cool down 25 times faster in cold water than in air.

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When water temperatures are below 40 F and exposure could be longer than 15 minutes survival suits shall be considered.

Water temperature, body size, amount of body fat, and movement in the water, all play a part in cold water survival. Generally, smaller people cool faster than large people.

PFDs can still help you stay alive longer in cold water. They let you float without using energy and they protect part of your body from cold water. A snug fitting PFD is better than one that's loose fitting for cold water use.

<b>How Hypothermia Affects Most Adults</b>		
<b>Water Temperature (° F)</b>	<b>Exhaustion or Unconsciousness</b>	<b>Expected time of Survival</b>
32.5 <sup>0</sup>	Under 15 min.	Under 15 to 45 min.
32.5 <sup>0</sup> to 40 <sup>0</sup>	15 to 30 min.	30 to 90 min.
40 <sup>0</sup> to 50 <sup>0</sup>	30 to 60 min.	1 to 3 hrs.
50 <sup>0</sup> to 60 <sup>0</sup>	1 to 2 hrs	1 to 6 hrs
60 <sup>0</sup> to 70 <sup>0</sup>	2 to 7 hrs	2 to 40 hrs
70 <sup>0</sup> to 80 <sup>0</sup>	2 to 12 hrs	3 hrs to indefinite
Over 80 <sup>0</sup>	Indefinite	Indefinite

### **Cold Water Survival**

When you are in cold water, do not swim unless you can reach a nearby boat, fellow survivor, or floating object. Even good swimmers drown while swimming in cold water. Swimming lowers your body temperature.

If a nearby floating object is large enough, pull yourself on it. The more your body is out of the water, the warmer you will be. Keep your head out of the water to lessen heat loss and increase survival time.

Use of the HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) position (illustrated below) will lessen heat loss; however, if you are wearing a Type III, PFD, bring your legs together tight and your arms tight to your sides and your head back.

If there are others in the water, huddle together for warmth. Keep a positive outlook. It will improve your chances of survival.

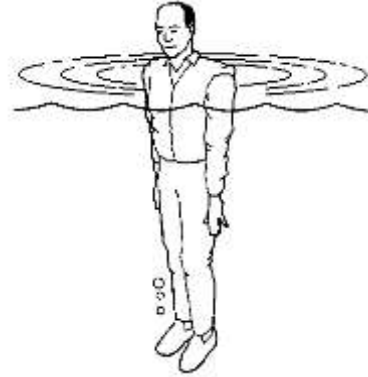
Always wear your PFD. Even if you become helpless from hypothermia, your PFD will keep you afloat.

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**Type I PFD Survival Position**



**Type III PFD Survival Position**



**Training**

Employees working over or near water must be adequately trained in their responsibilities and the safe work practices associated with their task.