

Wading Measurements Generic Job Hazard Analyses

| Sequence of Basic Job Steps | Potential Accidents/Hazards | Recommended Safe Job Procedures |
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| Prior to entering stream, asses stream conditions and environment. | Risk of drowning if stream velocities are too great or water is too deep. | If gage height is greater than Error: Not available ft. do not wade. If stream depth times stream velocity is greater than 10 ft/s, do not wade. Else locate cross section where flows are less than 10 ft/s. Know your own limits. |
| Prior to entering stream, asses stream conditions and environment. | Lightning, rapid change in stage. | Check weather forecast. If stream is rising rapidly, do not wade. Do not wade during thunderstorms. |
| Working in or around surface waters | Sewage effluent, storm water runoff, infectious water-bourne diseases. | Wear waders and appropriate personal protective equipment. Prevent water from contacting eyes and skin. Keep vaccinations up to date. Cleanse any cuts or punctures immediately and treat with antibiotic ointments. Seek medical aid if needed. Review & follow guidelines of WRD Memo 98.06, WRD Immunization Program. |
| Entering stream | Slippery surfaces, steep banks | Wear waders with non-slip soles. Choose the Safest Path, not the Shortest Path. Use wading rod for support. Cut temporary steps into bank. Use rope tied to tree for help. |
| Crossing stream & making measurement. | Boat traffic | Use flags on tagline. Have cutters ready. |
| Crossing stream & making measurement. | Floating or submerged debris | Don't attempt the measurement if there is any doubt that you will be able to safely cross the stream. Be aware of surroundings. Watch for rapidly changing stage, be alert for snakes, rodents, and fire ants in floating debris. |
| Crossing stream & making measurement. | Irregular and soft stream bottom | Using the wading rod to test bottom before stepping. Watch for washouts and changing bottom conditions. |
| Crossing stream & making measurement. | Falling objects | Wear hard hat when working under bridges. |
| Removing tag line | Tag line snagged. | Carefully wade out to snag and free or cut tagline. If stage or velocity increase, abandon tag line and recover at lower stage. |
| Exiting stream | Slippery undercut banks, steep banks, debris piles. | Use wading rod for support, cut steps in bank or use rope tied to tree for assistance. Exit at safest bank. |
| Exiting stream | Infectious water-borne diseases. | Thoroughly disinfect with a biocidal agent (germicidal soap or alcohol) any exposed skin that has come in contact with potentially contaminated water. |

For additional information about Job Hazard Analyses visit <http://1stop.usgs.gov/safety/topic/jha/index.html>