## Working Near Water

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to reduce hazards to personnel who work over or near water and to prevent injury of fatality from falling into the water.

1. **Procedure**

A pre-task plan shall be completed and signed by all members of the crew that may be working over or near water before the work may begin. The plan will include the following:

* Discussion of work to be perform
* Review of required PPE
* Review of emergency procedures and contact numbers
* Reminder that employees with together at least in two man teams in case of man overboard emergency

Communication or appropriate provisions must be made for access to medical assistance before the job begins and posted at the worksite.

Employees, who will be performing work over or near water, where the danger of drowning exists, are not permitted to work alone at any time.

Keep all walking and working surfaces clean, dry, and unobstructed.

1. **Personal Protective Equipment**

Employees working in areas unprotected by OSHA-compliant passive fall protection systems over or near water, where the danger of drowning exists, shall be provided with U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD).

Personal flotation devices shall be inspected for defects which could alter their strength or buoyancy prior to and after each use. Defective units shall not be used.

Personal flotation devices must be properly worn and fastened at all times.

1. **Emergency Rescue**

Ring buoys with at least 90 feet of line shall be provided and readily available for emergency rescue operations. Distance between ring buoys shall not exceed 200 feet.

At least one lifesaving skiff, equipped with paddles or oars, shall be immediately available at locations where employees are working over or adjacent to water. Where water current exists, the skiff or boat must be motorized or occupied at all times. A safety line may be connected between the boat and a structural member capable of maintaining the position of the boat. All occupants of boats must wear a PFD, with the exception noted above.

1. **Training**

Employees working over or near water shall be adequately trained in their responsibilities and the safe work practices associated with the task, emergency rescue procedures and the use of rescue equipment.