

Health and Safety Standard

WORKING ON ICE

1 PURPOSE

This standard establishes the requirements when working on an ice covered body of water.

2 SCOPE

This standard identifies requirements for working on an ice covered body of water including personal protective equipment and environmental needed to address the special nature of this work. This standard does not apply where there is no free water under the ice.

This standard outlines the minimum requirements that shall be met or exceeded by SaskPower workers and contractors. Failure to comply may result in injuries, damage to equipment and property, environmental harm, performance management or any combination thereof.

The use of the word “shall” within this standard denotes a mandatory action, whereas the use of the word “should” or “may” denotes a recommended action.

3 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this standard:

Axe or Ice Chisel – A tool typically with a steel blade attached at a right angle to a wooden handle or a long-handled chisel for cutting holes in ice to test ice up to 30 centimeters thick.

Ice Picks – A tool used to grip and move along the ice to complete a self-rescue if the ice fails.

Lifejacket – is a keyhole or vest type flotation device that that is designed to turn an unconscious person face up in the water, and are only available in yellow, orange or red for visibility. Lifejackets may use foam, air or other gas to provide flotation.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD) – is a flotation device that is designed to provide sufficient buoyancy to keep a person’s head above water. PFD’s have less flotation than

a Lifejacket, come in many colours and varieties for different applications and may use foam, air or other gas to provide flotation.

4 REQUIREMENTS

4.1 HAZARD/ASPECT AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Upon a hazard/aspect and risk assessment that identifies work will be done on ice, over a body of water, the worker shall:

- Refer and apply the SaskPower Working on Ice Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for ice measurement guidelines.
- Determine what personal protective equipment is required when working on ice.
- Have any environmental permit for the work present and available onsite.
- Review environmental permit conditions documenting all aspects and controls on their hazard/aspect and risk assessment.
- Avoid refuelling or servicing mobile equipment on ice.
- Use containment for small stationary equipment such as pumps or generators.
- Have a spill kit suitable to clean up any potential hazardous material spills readily available.
- Report any and all spills to SaskPower Environment.

4.2 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Standard PPE shall be used for all activities being performed on ice in accordance with the Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment Policy. In addition the workers shall also:

- wear a Lifejacket or PFD that has been approved by Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard or Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Lifejacket or PFD shall use foam for flotation, inflatable flotation devices are not approved for working on ice.
- wear a harness with sternal D-ring and a minimum 30m long polypropylene rope that is 10mm in diameter to assist in rescue should the worker break through the ice
- carry an axe or ice picks, to assist in self-rescue
- wear ice cleats on their boot for protection against slips

4.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIALS

SaskPower shall provide information on the proper care, use; selection and limitations of approved life jackets and/or personal flotation devices from Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Fisheries and Oceans Canada or, any combination of the above. Employees shall refer to the SaskPower Working on Ice Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for ice measurement guidelines and related material.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

The requirements of this version of the standard are to be met immediately following the approval date at which time the previous version will be superseded.

6 RESOURCES

6.1 INTERNAL RESOURCES

Related Policies:	Hazard /Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Policy
References:	Working On Ice Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
Related Standards:	Working Alone Standard Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Standard

6.2 EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Related Legislation:	<i>The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020</i>
Additional Information:	Work Safe Alberta – Best Practice for Building and Working Safely on Ice Covers 2013 Work Safe Alberta – Field Guide to Working Safely on Ice Covers 2009 Transport Canada - Choosing Lifejackets and PFD's

Ownership

Division:	Human Resources and Safety
Department:	Safety/Environment
Review Frequency:	3 years
Approved by:	Health & Safety Council and Environmental Leadership Council
HSC Approval:	Click here to enter a date.
ELC Approval:	Click here to enter a date.
Approval Date:	Click here to enter a date.

Document History

Revised by	Revision Purpose/Comments	Date
R.Mack	Scheduled Review Cycle	June 6, 2022
R.Mack	Scheduled Review Cycle	December 3, 2018