

Talk No: 43	Title: WORKING NEAR WATER
<p>Introduction: Most drowning incidents occur in inland waters and involve males. Most causes relate to bravado, foolishness and/or lack of safety awareness.</p>	
<p>Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drowning can occur in relatively shallow water, and can also occur in other liquids. – The primary aim should be to prevent persons from falling in the first place. Prevention of drowning is the secondary aim! – Never work alone near water – always employ the “buddy buddy” system. <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All working platforms near water must be properly constructed including the required guard-rails and toe-boards. Consider securing boards where water or high winds could affect them. – All ladders must be firmly secured. – Ensure there is clear passage on all platforms and access/egress routes. – Safety harnesses should be employed where applicable. – If lighting is supplied for night work, note that it should be able to take in the surface of any water that an employee could fall in to. – Never work alone, always work in at least pairs, and continually check on each other (never rely on a “shout” as an indication of someone falling – it may not happen or you may not hear it). – Know how to raise the alarm and know the location of rescue equipment. – If there is a risk of falling in, then wear a life jacket or buoyancy aid (note that a life jacket will automatically turn an unconscious person face up in the water – a buoyancy aid will not!) – Ensure all rescue equipment is regularly inspected and maintained (visual check at the start of each shift). – Know the emergency drills. – Be aware of dangers from Weil’s disease (leptospirosis). <p style="text-align: center;">TIME SPENT NOW ON SAFETY COULD SAVE A LIFE LATER!</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	