



## Work Health and Safety Risk Assessment

### Identified activity for Risk Assessment

Working around water

### Describe the identified activity / actions

1. Walking
2. Rescuing
3. Releasing

### Location of actions

1. Rescue property (private) (e.g. pools, dams, rivers, creeks, flood water)
2. Volunteer property (private) (e.g. pools, dams, rivers, creeks, flood water)
3. Public place (national parks, public pools, roadways, beaches, dams, rivers, creeks, storm drains, flood water, lakes)

### Identify the hazards, potential risks and current risk controls then rate them

1. Identify each hazard associated with the actions
2. List existing controls and determine a risk rating
3. List any tools or equipment needed



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### RISK MATRIX

What harm could occur?		What is the likelihood of the harm occurring?		Calculate the Risk Score						
Consequence	Description	Likelihood	Description		Likelihood					
					Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost certain	
<b>Catastrophic</b>	Potential for death, permanent disability of ill-health	<b>Almost certain</b>	The event will definitely occur at some time or occur as a consequence of another event. Once every 1-3 years.	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Catastrophic</b>	Moderate	Moderate	High	Critical	Critical
<b>Major</b>	Potential serious long-term injury	<b>Likely</b>	The event is expected to occur at some time in the near future. Once every 3-5 years.		<b>Major</b>	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Critical
<b>Moderate</b>	Potential for injury or illness resulting in short term hospitalisation	<b>Possible</b>	The event does occur from time to time. Once every 5-8 years.		<b>Moderate</b>	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
<b>Minor</b>	Potential for injury or illness resulting in medical attention and several days off work	<b>Unlikely</b>	The event might occur but is not expected. Once every 8-10 years.		<b>Minor</b>	Very low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
<b>Insignificant</b>	No treatment required or first aid treatment.	<b>Rare</b>	Conceivable but highly unlikely to occur. Once every 10-15 years.		<b>Insignificant</b>	Very low	Very low	Low	Low	Moderate



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
Slippery surfaces such as algae on rocks, pool tiles or trip hazards	Slips and trips into water causing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall injuries</li> <li>• Fall into water</li> <li>• Concussion</li> <li>• Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHS Training</li> <li>• PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>• Prior to attending the site, identify potential slip, trip or fall hazards and eliminate/avoid if possible</li> <li>• Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>• First Aid Kit</li> <li>• Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>• WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Review tidal levels before attending</li> <li>○ Observe warning signage</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body (see Definition)</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system recommended when entering a water body (either present or notified)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Likely	Major	High	Human
Cold water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypothermia</li> <li>• Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHS Training</li> <li>• PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>• Temperature levels established and time in water assessment, to determine when a wetsuit is required</li> <li>• Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>• First Aid Kit</li> <li>• Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>• WIRES Procedures as below:</li> </ul>	Rare	Major	Low	Human



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> </ul>				
Extended exposure in the water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dehydration</li> <li>● Exhaustion</li> <li>● Hypothermia</li> <li>● Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WHS Training</li> <li>● PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>● First Aid Kit</li> <li>● Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>● Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>● WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational assessment of area to determine hazards/risks to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> <li>○ Recommendation to rehydrate with warm water and fluids if extended exposure in water occurs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Rare	Major	Low	Human
Wave action (rough surf, strong surge, strong undertows or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Impact injury (e.g. impact with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WHS Training</li> <li>● PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>● First Aid Kit</li> <li>● Waterproof communication devices</li> </ul>	Possible	Major	Moderate	Human



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
backwash flow, rogue waves)	hard surface, knocked off feet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swept into water</li> <li>• Caught in a rip</li> <li>• Exhaustion</li> <li>• Drowning</li> <li>• Fishing lines and entanglement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>• WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Review tidal levels before attending</li> <li>○ Observe warning signage</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> <li>○ Do not attempt to stand in or cross swift moving water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
Strong currents and tidal movements (including river and beach rip currents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swept into water</li> <li>• Impact with marine debris</li> <li>• Entanglement in marine debris</li> <li>• Exhaustion</li> <li>• Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHS Training</li> <li>• PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>• First Aid Kit</li> <li>• Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>• Escalate to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>• WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Observe warning signage</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Possible	Major	Moderate	Human



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do not attempt to stand in or cross swift moving water</li> </ul>				
Sudden drop off (substrate bottom drops off abruptly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Swept into water</li> <li>● Exhaustion</li> <li>● Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WHS Training</li> <li>● PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>● First Aid Kit</li> <li>● Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>● Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>● WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Observe warning signage</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> <li>○ Do not attempt to stand in or cross swift moving water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Likely	Moderate	Moderate	Human
Submerged hazards or marine debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Impact with marine debris</li> <li>● Entanglement in marine debris</li> <li>● Drowning</li> <li>● Injury (including cuts and scratches) from sharp debris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WHS Training</li> <li>● PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>● First Aid Kit</li> <li>● Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>● Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>● WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Observe warning signage</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Possible	Major	Moderate	Human



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
	(including needle sticks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> </ul>				
Exposure to marine or aquatic animals e.g. bluebottles, jellyfish, stingrays, stinging fish (including stonefish etc.), shark etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sting</li> <li>● Bite</li> <li>● Anaphylaxis</li> <li>● Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WHS Training</li> <li>● PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>● Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>● Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> <li>● WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>○ Observe warning signage</li> <li>○ Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>○ If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>○ Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> <li>○ First Aid Kit (carrying vinegar and hot water recommended to treat marine stings – follow Gov. advice for treatment)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human
Tsunami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Swept into water</li> <li>● Impact with marine debris</li> <li>● Entanglement in marine debris</li> <li>● Exhaustion</li> <li>● Drowning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>● Follow government warnings and directions in the case of natural disaster events</li> <li>● First Aid Kit</li> <li>● Pre-nominated evacuation area and transport to move quickly to evacuation point</li> <li>● Waterproof communication devices</li> </ul>	Rare	Catastrophic	Moderate	Human, Property



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
Working from a vessel including boats, kayak, or other vessel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falling into water</li> <li>Drowning</li> <li>Exposure to elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>Lifejacket required when working from a vessel</li> <li>Marine safety equipment required as per Transport for NSW Roads and Maritime regulations</li> <li>Water safety training if operating water craft</li> <li>Operator of boat must have appropriate maritime license</li> <li>First Aid Kit</li> <li>Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> </ul>	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human
Working from a jetty/boat ramp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falling into water</li> <li>Drowning</li> <li>Bystanders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use equipment (nets etc.) to reduce the need to enter the water</li> <li>Wear PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>Do not enter fast flowing water</li> <li>Implement buddy system</li> <li>Ensure there are no surrounding hazards</li> <li>Utilize appropriate vessel (kayak under 4m or boat if licensed operator available) to avoid swimming</li> <li>Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> </ul>	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human
Flood zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drowning</li> <li>Swept into water</li> <li>Impact with debris</li> <li>Slips, trips and falls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHS Training</li> <li>Emergency Response Training</li> <li>PPE (see Definition)</li> <li>Identify and use suitable devices or capture techniques to retrieve animals from water</li> <li>Do not attempt to stand in or cross swift moving water</li> </ul>	Unlikely	Moderate	Moderate	Human



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bites, scratches, stings from animals escaping the rising waters (e.g snakes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor conditions (particularly for increased rainfall or rising waters/ flooding)</li> <li>Work in areas where the footing is stable</li> <li>Implement buddy system</li> <li>First Aid Kit</li> <li>Utilise waders or gaiters if operating around muddy banks of flood zones</li> <li>Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>Utilise external agencies (e.g. State Emergency Service)</li> <li>Communicate and follow directions of Emergency Response Coordinator</li> <li>Escalation to other agencies if necessary</li> </ul>				
Operating equipment around water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injuries</li> <li>Electric shock/ electrocution / burns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise external agencies when possible or necessary</li> <li>Authorised and competent operators to operate machinery only</li> <li>Machinery to be operated within manufacturers limits</li> <li>Do not use machinery while in water</li> <li>Maintenance program for all machinery</li> <li>Electrical tagging of machinery</li> <li>Machinery shut off buttons in place</li> <li>Pre-use machinery checks</li> <li>Identify alternate methods to using electric machinery, if possible</li> </ul>	Rare	Moderate	Low	Human, Property
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrians accessing the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian barricades in place</li> <li>Site and incident scene containment processes documented</li> </ul>	Possible	Minor	Moderate	Human



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bites/scratches to MOPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional volunteers on site assigned to manage members of the public</li> <li>Ongoing public education</li> <li>Training for WIRES staff in managing the community</li> </ul>				
Marine Traffic (e.g. paddlecraft, boats, jet-ski, ferry, surfer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact with marine traffic</li> <li>Wake or wave from marine traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHS Training</li> <li>PPE (see Definition below)</li> <li>First Aid Kit</li> <li>Waterproof communication devices</li> <li>WIRES Procedures as below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observational Risk Assessment to be completed on arrival</li> <li>Observe warning signage</li> <li>Water competence required when entering a water body</li> <li>If entering body of water, stay within standing depth (no swimming)</li> <li>Implement buddy system when entering a water body</li> <li>Do not attempt to stand in or cross swift moving water</li> <li>First Aid Kit</li> <li>Waterproof communication devices</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Possible	Major	Moderate	Human, Property
Working outdoors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to 'Working Outdoors' risk assessment</li> </ul>	Almost certain	Minor	Moderate	Human
Working remotely		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to 'Working Remotely' risk assessment</li> </ul>	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human



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### Definitions:

**Water competency** is defined as the ability to anticipate, avoid and survive common drowning situations. It includes water safety awareness, basic swimming skills and ability to provide assistance to those in need.

General **PPE** includes gloves, face masks, safety goggles or eye protection, high visibility vest, sturdy, non-slip enclosed shoes, long pants and long sleeved clothing, head torch, sun protection such as sunscreen and a hat, waterproof clothing

Along with the use of general PPE, Working Around Water PPE includes:

- lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device (PFD) required when entering a waterbody or when working from a vessel on a waterbody
- lifejacket or PFD recommended when working around water
- wetsuit recommended, particularly when exposed to cold conditions (water or elements) or when extended exposure is expected in the water (e.g. during a long, complex rescue)



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