

Slips, Trips, Falls On Ground

Go Back to Hazard Summary

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Wet or Slippery Ground
- Uneven Ground
- Debris / Wires
- People Carrying Equipment
- Distracting Events
- Running or Sense of Urgency
- Poor Lighting
- Night Operations
- Inclimate Weather

Causes

- Poor Footing, Trips and Falls

Potential Effects

- Twisted Ankle, Blunt Trauma From Falling, Impaling on Object

Mitigation

- Organize Camp or Working Area With Walking Areas Clear
- Remove, Identify or Put Up Barrier Around Trip Hazards
- Good Tread and Ankle Support on Work Boots
- Good Lighting Available (Chemlights, Flashlights, ...)
- Restrict Activities At Night
- Safety Briefing to Avoid Trip Hazards
- Proper Lifting and Moving Techniques (Enough People and Organized Moving)
- Good Organizational and Preplanning for Rescue Operations Setup
- Restrict Running and Operate in Controlled Manner
- Eliminate Stubs, Stakes or Potential Impaling Objects

Tasks Needed

- Add SOP for Clearing Trip and Impaling Objects to Site Prep

Back Injury

Go Back to Hazard Summary

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Stooping or Bending
- Repetitious Lifting
- Poor Lifting Technique
- Personnel With Back Problems or Pain Previously
- Sandbagging Operations
- Hurried Lifting
- Unstable Footing
- Overfilled Sandbags
- Poor Physical Condition of Responders
- Lifting in Tight Areas

Causes

- Overexertion of Back

Potential Effects

- Long or Short Term Back Problems

Mitigation

- Training in Back Injury Prevention
- Regular Scheduled Breaks
- Open Area for Lifting
- Training on Sandbagging Operations
- Good Footing / Stable Area for Operations
- Physical Conditioning for Responders
- Safety Officer Monitoring Lifting Techniques
- Back Supports Available
- Removal of People With Known Back Problems or Pain From Lifting
- Use Heavy Equipment or Mechanical Advantages for Lifting
- Massage Therapy Available for Long Term Operations

Tasks Needed

- Additional Sandbagging Training
- Chart on Medical Conditions Including Known Medical Problems
- Back Supports Available

Person Falls Into Water

Go Back to Hazard Summary

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Loose or Unstable Bank
- Distracting Event
- Personnel Near Water
- Steeply Sloped Bank Near Water
- Wet or Slippery Conditions
- Poor Lighting Conditions

Causes

- Lose Footing and Fall Into Water

Potential Effects

- Person Swept Away By Current, Contamination, Blunt Trauma

Mitigation

- Restrict Personnel Access to Water Edge
- Define Access Points to Water
- Coordinate Search or Shore Support Efforts Based on Terrain (Gentle Slope Best)
- Person at Potential Hazard or Access Point Restricting People
- Perimeter Set Up Safe Distance From Water Edge
- Searchers or Shore Support With Appropriate PPE (Including Life Jacket)
- Safety Officer Monitoring Bank
- Red Chemlights at Perimeter of Water
- Safety Briefing On Hazardous Points Near Water
- Rope Safety Line for Steep Angled Bank With Prusik Knot Attachment
- Set Up Camp or Staging Area Safe Distance From Water
- Passing Swim Test Required for All Deployable People

Tasks Needed

Frightened Animals

Go Back to Hazard Summary

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Flooded Area

- Residential Homes

- Cats / Dogs / Pets Present

- Conditions Different Than Animals Used To

- Lack of PPE or Animal Control Equipment

- Excited People - Bystanders

- Lack of Animal Control People Available

Causes

- Animal Bites or Scratches Rescuer, Damaged Equipment

Potential Effects

- Infection, Cuts, Tears

Mitigation

- Person's Safety Always Before Animals

- Animal Control Equipment Available

- Animal Rescue Training

- Use Profession Animal Control If Available

- Try to Let Animal Self Rescue If Able To

- Leave Animal Alone If in Doubt

Tasks Needed

- Animal Rescue Training

- Net for Animal Capture

Water Washing Over Ground

Go Back to Hazard Summary

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Flooded Area
- Camp or Base Set In Low Area
- Operations in Drainage Area
- Rain
- Lack of Preplanning on Work Sites
- Dams and Levees In Local Area
- Poor Communication With Water Control Resources

Causes

- Sudden Release or Rise of Water Floods Work or Living Area

Potential Effects

- Loss of Equipment, Unable to Function As Rescue Team, Cut Off

Mitigation

- Plan Campsite Above High Water Mark and Out of Drainage Area
- Preplanned Warning System for Planned / Unplanned Changes Due to Levees or Dams
- Post Spotters If Hazard of Sudden Changes in Water Conditions
- Regularly Measure Local Water Condition Level To Track Changes
- Short and Long Term Weather Forecasts
- Tide Predictions Where Applicable
- Leave Area and Reset Camp / Operations Early Before Area Floods
- Area Preplan on Local Dams With Release Times

Tasks Needed

- SOP On Camp Setup - Out of Low Area, Drainage
- Resource for Contacting Water Release Sources

Pulled In Water By Throwbag

Go Back to Hazard Summary

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Swiftwater Conditions

- Inexperienced Person With Throwbag

- Poor Footing

- Poor Alert Time

- Lack of Bank Area for Rescuer

Causes

- Rescuer On Bank Pulled into Water By Throwrope

Potential Effects

- Loss of Person On Throwline and Loss of Downstream Safety When Needed Most

Mitigation

- Regular Training on Throwbags With Pulling Person Into Bank

- Spotters and Communication for Prep Time For Downstream Safety

- Regular Practice on Whistle Signals for Alerting

- Have Downstream Safety Select Good Location Before Operation Upstream

- Have Tie in for Downstream Safety If Needed

Tasks Needed