# **DYke/Flood Bank patrols - SAFE WORK procedure**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to the safety of those conducting observational dyke patrols during regional flood emergencies. When conducting observational patrols, look for changes to:

* Dyke/Flood Bank condition (ex. erosion on banks)
* Water level
* Debris build-up (ex. logs at risk of blocking culverts)
* Undermined structures (walkways, sidewalks, buildings etc.)

**SCOPE & APPLICABILITY**

This procedure covers the proper and safe way to patrol a dyke/flood bank during flooding emergencies. This applies to any staff tasked by the EOC or by their direct supervisor on reconnaissance patrols.

**PREREQUISITES**

You must be knowledgeable of the hazards associated with fast moving creeks and rivers.

**REFERENCE SOURCES:**

* WorkSafeBC Regulations
  + Part 4 – General Conditions
  + Part 8 – Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
* Dyke Patrols Risk Assessment and Safe Work Procedure

**PPE REQUIRED:**

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| * High-visibility vest or jacket | * CSA approved footwear |  |
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**TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:**

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| * Notebook * Throw lines, buoyancy aids | * Camera / mobile phone | * First aid kit |

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| **PRE – Work Procedure** | |
| **Responsibility** | **Activity** |
| **Workers** | * Ensure a field level risk assessment is completed on-site to identify hazards specific to that site. Review assessment with all personnel present to ensure everyone’s on the same page. |
| **Workers** | * Ensure throw line/buoyancy aids are readily available in case of incidental slip/fall into waterway (prepare for worst case scenario). |

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| **Safe Work Procedure** | |
| **Responsibility** | **Activity** |
| **Workers** | * Ensure all workers are informed that if they are exposed to water via cuts, openings in the body or ingestion to seek medical advice immediately if they begin to feel unwell. In flooded areas, there is a heightened risk of Weil’s disease (leptospirosis) with flood water. |
| **Workers** | * All persons must wear a high visibility vest. |
| **Workers** | * Conduct necessary observations of dyke – make notes, take photos etc. |

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| **POST – House keeping** | |
| **Responsibility** | **Activity** |
| **Workers** | * Provide updates on condition of dyke/water levels to your direct supervisor or section chief at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). |
| **Workers** | * Be sure to diarize activity and/or fill in position log at EOC. |
| **Workers** | * Report any incidents or near misses to the appropriate section chiefs at the EOC (Risk Management Officer and Operations) |

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