

Village Of Cache Creek

Policy No. H-5

Working in Emergency Flood Conditions

Date to be Approved by Council:
June 25, 2018

Effective:
June 25, 2018

Policy Statement:

The Village of Cache Creek requires that all staff follow all safety protocols when responding to emergency flood events.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all Village employees abide by the WCB Regulations and Village of Cache Creek Procedures when responding to emergency flood events.

Procedures:

General

This Policy is to be reviewed at least annually at a Village of Cache Creek Safety meeting, ideally in March or April in preparation for the Spring freshet.

Hazards:

There are several hazards posed to workers while performing work in preparation of or in response to emergency flood conditions, especially when working adjacent to watercourses.

These hazards include:

- Inherent risk of drowning,
- Working on slippery and/or uneven ground (rip-rap, slopes, vegetation, roots, etc.),
- Blackberry bushes and other trees/brush that make access hazardous,
- Overexertion and work in awkward postures (ergonomics - further detailed below),
- Proximity to traffic and site equipment,
- Serious lacerations and noise/vibration created by saws and other power tools,
- Burns from hot surfaces or refueling hazards.

Equipment

The following tools and equipment are often used during emergency flooding events:

- Appropriate signage and barricades
- Backhoe or excavator
- Potato forks of varying lengths
- Pry bars, rakes, shovels, and other tools
- Bin trucks

All equipment and tools should be inspected before each use. Equipment found unsafe must be removed from service immediately, and marked 'red tagged' accordingly.

Personal Protective Equipment

Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by all workers when working in preparation of or in response to emergency flood conditions. Examples of PPE to be worn includes the following:

- Work gloves
- Hard hat
- Safety glasses or impact rated goggles
- Hearing protection (ear plugs or muffs) where noise hazard present
- CSA or ANSI approved steel toed safety boots
- High visibility apparel (Visi-Vests or Coveralls with reflective trim)
- Appropriate work clothing or coveralls
- Flashlight (as required)
- Hip waders (as required)
- Personal floatation device (PFD) at or near the water (drowning hazard present)

Note: If a worker is wearing hip waders, they must wear a PFD.

Pre-Start

1. Ensure proper PPE is worn.

On-site

1. Keep away from creek/river banks – workers are not to put themselves in a risky/precarious situation; observe and inspect areas with fast-moving water from a distance (ex. adjacent to bridge or structure).
2. Inspect the site for potential hazards and manage accordingly.
3. Tasks shall be completed by workers who have experience in performing the task.
4. Workers are to look out for each other's well-being; ensure enough food/fluids are being consumed, ensure adequate work/rest cycles (good scheduling).
5. Watch footing; wear appropriate footwear, maintain high level of situational awareness.
6. Survey/scan surroundings; wear prop

Safety Considerations

Working in preparation of or in response to emergency flood conditions should always be done in pairs. Safety considerations include the following:

- Dress appropriately for the work and the weather conditions.
- Avoid performing this work in low light conditions.
- Be very careful if you are unfamiliar with, or unaccustomed to, the work.
- Use extreme caution when working near intake structures. Ensure proper positioning and secure footing. Where possible, stay entirely out of the water and to the side when removing materials from these structures.

- Avoid standing on culverts as this is an unsafe work position.
- Do not enter fast moving water, or where strong currents are present.
- Always wear a PFD (or life jacket) at or near the water, and ensure it is secured properly.
- Stay a safe distance from other crewmembers when operating equipment.
- Pay attention to overhead utilities and maintain the Limits of Approach (extended tools such as a 'potato fork' could make accidental contact).
- Other tools or equipment on site may require additional instruction, specialized training, or additional personal protective equipment (crane truck, chipper, bin truck, etc.). Please refer to applicable Safe Work Practices and/or seek supervisory assistance.