



National
Operational
Guidance

Control measure

Safe entry into water



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

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Control measure knowledge

An entry site that allows rescuers to walk into or lower themselves into the water should be used where possible. To reduce the risk of cold water entry or physical injury, personnel should attempt to identify a safe access point and where possible, walk into or lowering themselves into the water.

This may require the use of inflatable platforms to assist entry or require additional control measures to be implemented to gain access to a bank side. Diving or jumping into the water should be avoided and only trained personnel should consider this option following an appropriate risk assessment.

A safe point of egress should also be identified; this will not necessarily be the same point as the entry point. Any egress point should consider the effect of hydrology and the condition of the casualty.

Strategic actions

Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Ensure rescuers enter water slowly to minimise the effects of cold-water shock