



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Hazard

**Working environment: Water rescue  
and flooding**



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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## Hazard - Working environment: Water rescue and flooding

### Knowledge and understanding

#### Hazard

Working environment: Water rescue and flooding

#### Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Clean line principle

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

##### Control measure element

Clean line principle

##### Learning outcome

Understand:

- The hazards associated with fixed lines attached to water incident responders
- The protocols for using lines at incidents involving bodies of water

#### Practical application

##### Control measure element

Clean line principle

##### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Use the clean line principle at incidents involving bodies of water





Control measure - Cordons: Water rescue and  
**flooding**

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**TRAINING SPECIFICATION**

**Knowledge and understanding**

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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Cordons: Water rescue and  
flooding

Understand:

- How to establish and implement hazard zones at incidents involving bodies of water
- The use of exclusion zones at incidents involving bodies of water
- The equipment, processes and procedures for the use of hazard zones at incidents involving bodies of water

Refer to: [Establish appropriate cordon controls – Incident command training specification](#)

**Practical application**

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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Cordons: Water rescue and  
flooding

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Use appropriate equipment, processes and procedures for the use of hazard zones at incidents involving bodies of water

Refer to: [Establish appropriate cordon controls – Incident command training specification](#)



**Control measure - Personal protective  
equipment: Water rescue and flooding**

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Personal protective equipment:  
Water rescue and flooding

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- The performance standards and level of protection afforded by personal protective equipment ensembles used for incidents involving bodies of water
- The use of specifically designed personal protective equipment used for working on, in or near water
- The means of identifying personnel during night operations or in poorly illuminated areas at incidents involving bodies of water

Refer to: [Personal protective equipment – Operations training specification](#)

### Practical application

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#### Control measure element

Personal protective equipment:  
Water rescue and flooding

#### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and use specifically designed personal protective equipment for working on, in or near water
- Identify and use appropriate equipment and procedures during night operations or in poorly illuminated areas at incidents involving bodies of water

Refer to: [Personal protective equipment – Operations training specification](#)



## Control measure - Safety officers: Water rescue and flooding

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Safety officers: Water rescue and flooding

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- The role and considerations for personnel nominated to perform the role of upstream spotters
- The role and considerations for personnel nominated to perform tasks as part of a downstream safety team
- The role and considerations for personnel nominated as safety officers for management of tethers or lines
- The importance of communicating relevant information to other water course users
- The equipment and procedures used to ensure safe systems of work at incidents involving bodies of water

Refer to: [Incident ground safety management – Incident command training specification](#)

### Practical application



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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Safety officers: Water rescue and flooding

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Gather relevant information to determine positioning of upstream spotters and downstream safety teams
- Apply appropriate safety procedures for carrying out rescues at water related incidents
- Establish specific safe systems of work for upstream spotters and downstream safety teams
- Establish an effective communication strategy and confirm understanding with relevant personnel
- Perform the role of upstream spotter at incidents involving bodies of water
- Perform the role of downstream safety at incidents involving bodies of water
- Perform the role of safety officer responsible for the management of tethers or lines

Refer to: [Incident ground safety management – Incident command training specification](#)