

Algoma University Animal Care Committee	
#AU 0009 Working in and Around Water	
Issue date: June 2012	Last revised: May/2024

### 1. Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes recommended procedures for working in or around water.

### 2. Policy

Health and safety guidelines and regulations

### 3. Responsibility

Principal investigator, their research staff, and their student investigators

### 4. Training Required

None

### 5. Materials Required

First aid kit

Waders

Flotation vest

Cell phone

Change of clothes

Pair of pliers

### 6. Procedures

Prevention/Precaution:

1. Before travelling to any field sites for the day, the Principal Investigator/Team Leader must be notified that you will spend the day in the field and which sites you plan to visit.
2. You must also notify the Principal Investigator/Team Leader when you have returned from the field. When working in the field, always use the buddy system.
3. When working around water, you have to wear a flotation vest. When you work in the water, you also need to wear a pair of waders.
4. If you need to work in the water, the following rules must be observed:
  - a. Do not wade through water that is deeper than your waist height and faster than 50 cm/sec.
  - b. Do not wade through areas that are deep and/or the water is not transparent.
  - c. Observe common sense rules around water.

Procedure:

1. The following procedure applies when the above prevention rules have been observed. If you slip or fall in shallow water, try to stand up right away. Wade out to the shore as soon as possible and change clothes.
2. If you cannot stand up, do not fight the current, float down river to a shallower area, stand up and wade out to the shore.
3. If you have been hurt during the fall, have your co-worker assess the extent of damage. Small cuts and bruises can be attended on site with the help of a first aid kit. If the extent of damage is larger, keep the affected person comfortable on the shore, dial 911 from a cell phone and wait for the arrival of emergency personnel.
4. If you get pierced by a fishing hook while collecting fish samples, seek medical attention to remove the hook as soon as possible. An Accident/Injury Report should be completed by the Principal Investigator.

**7. References (if applicable)**

REVISION HISTORY		
Revision #	Revision Date	Summary of Changes
1	May 1, 2019	
2	April 23, 2023	
3	May 2, 2024	ACC committee feels the H&S office at the university needs to also be responsible for reviewing this SOP because it relates to the individual working in the field and their safety.
4	July 15, 2024	Reformatted to new SOP template
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