

# Marine / Over-Water Construction Safety Program

Guy's Construction  
123 Main Street, Anytown, CA 90210

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29 CFR 1926.605 - Marine Operations and Equipment  
29 CFR 1926.106 - Working Over or Near Water

Effective Date: June 08, 2026

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**SAMPLE DOCUMENT - NOT FOR COMPLIANCE USE**

## JURISDICTION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Marine construction involves overlapping federal and state jurisdiction:

- OSHA 29 CFR 1926 Subpart O: motor vehicles, mechanized equipment, and marine operations on construction sites
- OSHA 29 CFR 1926.106: working over or near water (life-saving equipment)
- U.S. Coast Guard (46 CFR): vessel inspection, crew licensing, navigation safety
- Army Corps of Engineers: waterway permits (Section 404, Section 10)

State plan states may have additional marine construction requirements:

**STATE-SPECIFIC NOTICE: California has the following marine construction requirements:**

- environmental hazard to marine ecosystems if released
- words "Marine Pollutant" in association with basic description
- maintain copies of any safety data sheets received with incoming shipments, obtain SDS if received without one upon employee request, and en
- ensure that labels on incoming containers of hazardous chemicals are not removed or defaced
- provide employees with information and training in accordance with subsection (h) except for location and availability of written hazard com
- the hazards of their respective jobs, and in the personal protection and first aid procedures applicable to these hazards
- evidence of conditions that could result in a cave-in, indications of failure of existing protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or othe
- person's name
- a site safety and control plan
- in-depth hazard and risk techniques
- appropriate entry procedures as described in employer's safety and health plan followed whenever employees enter
- portable or fixed ladder reaching from top of apron to water surface
- identified and classified prior to packaging for shipment
- these personnel hoist safety orders
- engulfment, toxic gases, oxygen deficiency, and structural collapse
- maintained in safe condition per Section 1511
- adequate illumination for its full length
- developed, communicated to employees and implemented before any employees or equipment enter areas where potential for exposure exists
- planks extend a minimum of 12 inches beyond centerline of their supports at each end
- developed and implemented for all phases in accordance with paragraph (k)
- standing away from any vehicle being loaded or unloaded to avoid being struck by any spillage or falling materials
- overhead protection not more than 9 feet above the platform shall be installed
- used for falling object protection and work directly below the opening barricaded by the CBB system
- traveling is required while lifting the load

- substantial handholds provided above the landings
- One portable fire extinguisher or 240 pounds of rock dust
- being struck by falling objects
- Any worker who by reason of his training and experience has demonstrated his ability to safely perform his duties.
- when power to a sensor is interrupted
- being struck by falling objects
- Marine operations and equipment, effective July 22, 1977
- 29 CFR 1926.606(e): a light structure serving as a guard at the outer edge of a ship's deck
- 1926.603(b): 1926.605 Marine Operations and Equipment
- Oregon
- 29 CFR 1926.603(b): 29 CFR 1926.605 Marine Operations
- at least the following hazards are addressed: (A) Reproductive/developmental toxicity; (B) Central nervous system effects; (C) Kidney effect
- by vacuuming or other methods that minimize the likelihood of lead becoming airborne wherever possible
- exposure which would occur if the employee were not using a respirator
- an agreement with the Surety Department for the Conservation Division to properly close and reclaim the site in accordance with approved pro
- the use of reclaimed water in oil and gas operations

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Marine / Over-Water Construction Safety Program establishes requirements for construction activities conducted on, over, or adjacent to water on Guy's Construction projects. This includes: bridge construction, dock/pier work, bulkhead installation, pile driving from barges, cofferdam construction, underwater inspection, and any construction activity where the danger of drowning exists.

*29 CFR 1926.606(e)*

*29 CFR 1926.106*

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## 2.0 LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AND DROWNING PREVENTION

**CRITICAL: Drowning is a leading cause of death in marine construction. Every employee working over or near water where the danger of drowning exists must be provided with a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket or buoyant work vest.**

- drowning protection per 1926.106
- US Coast Guard approved life jackets, ring buoys with 90ft line every 200ft, and rescue boat with crew available when working over water

*29 CFR 1926.106*

- drowning protection per 1926.106
- fall protection at 6 ft, safety nets on multi-story bridges, steel erection per Subpart R, crane operations per Subpart CC, drowning protection per 1926.106

*29 CFR 1926.502, 1926.750-761, 1926.1400+, 1926.106*

### 2.1 When Life Jackets Are Required

Life jackets/buoyant work vests are required when:

- Working on unguarded decks, platforms, or surfaces over water
- Working within 6 feet of an unprotected water edge
- Traveling in boats or on barges
- Working on scaffolds over water
- Any time the danger of drowning exists and other fall protection (guardrails, nets) is not in place

## 3.0 ACCESS TO WORK AREAS

- access to void compartments to allow for inspection and pumping

*29 CFR 1926.1432(n)(7)(iii)*

- Walkways, ramps, and gangways must be at least 20 inches wide with guardrails on open sides
- Jacob's ladders must meet 29 CFR 1926.605(b)(3) requirements
- Access between barges must be by properly designed and secured ramps or walkways - never by jumping
- Guardrails or taut safety lines on open edges of barges and floating platforms
- Non-skid surfaces on all walkways and work areas (marine paint, grating, or anti-slip coating)

## 4.0 BARGE AND FLOATING PLATFORM OPERATIONS

- 1926.605 Marine Operations and Equipment

1926.603(b)

- 29 CFR 1926.605 Marine Operations

29 CFR 1926.603(b)

- access to void compartments to allow for inspection and pumping

29 CFR 1926.1432(n)(7)(iii)

- a subdivided hull with one or more longitudinal watertight bulkheads for reducing the free surface effect

29 CFR 1926.1432(n)(7)(ii)

- structurally sufficient to withstand the static and dynamic loads of the crane/derrick when operating at the crane/derrick's maximum rated capacity with all anticipated deck loads and ballasted compar

29 CFR 1926.1432(n)(7)(i)

### 4.1 Barge Stability

- Verify barge stability before loading cranes, equipment, or materials
- Monitor draft marks and freeboard during operations
- Ballast as needed to maintain stability during crane operations
- Secure all equipment and materials against movement from waves, current, or wind
- No overloading: know the barge capacity and track cumulative loads

### 4.2 Mooring and Anchoring

- Barges must be properly moored or anchored to prevent uncontrolled movement
- Mooring lines must be inspected before each use
- Spud barges: verify spuds are properly set in the bottom and secured
- Account for tidal changes, current, and weather when setting mooring

## 5.0 MATERIAL HANDLING AND CRANE OPERATIONS OVER WATER

Crane operations on barges require additional considerations beyond standard Subpart CC:

- Barge-mounted crane: derate capacity for barge list, trim, and wave action
- Dynamic loading from waves affects crane stability - monitor conditions continuously
- Tag lines on all loads over water
- Exclusion zone under suspended loads - no personnel in the load path over water
- Material storage: distribute loads evenly on the barge deck

## 6.0 VESSEL AND BOAT SAFETY

The following USCG requirements apply to vessels used in marine construction:

- Coast Guard regulates vessel safety, seaworthiness, crew certification, and marine environmental protection under 46 CFR and 33 CFR. SEPARATE from OSHA worker safety. USCG inspects vessels, issues Cert

*46 USC; 46 CFR; 33 CFR*

- OSHA has jurisdiction over working conditions of longshore, shipyard, and marine terminal workers (29 CFR 1915-1919). USCG has jurisdiction over vessel safety and seaworthiness (46 CFR). Per OSH Act S

*OSH Act Section 4(b)(1); 29 USC 653(b)(1)*

- USCG Certificate of Inspection (COI) required for all inspected vessels. Specifies: route, capacity, manning, equipment requirements. Annual or periodic inspection by USCG.

*46 CFR 91*

- USCG has jurisdiction over vessel safety/seaworthiness (46 CFR); OSHA has jurisdiction over working conditions of longshore, shipyard, and marine terminal workers (29 CFR 1915-1919)

*OSH Act Section 4(b)(1) / 29 USC 653(b)(1)*

- Occupational Safety and Health Guidance Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities (NIOSH, OSHA, USCG, and EPA; October 1985)
- fiberboard box (4G) or fiber drum (1G) with plastic inner packaging not exceeding 5 kg (11 lbs) and maximum net mass not more than 25 kg (55 lbs)
- third physician to conduct examinations, consultations, laboratory tests and discussions with prior physicians as necessary to resolve disagreement
- a diagrammatic sketch of the mechanical installation along with a detailed explanation of the flow, procedures and frequency of well tests, calibration/proving of metering devices and allocation formu

### 6.1 Work Boats and Skiffs

- All boats must be in good condition with current USCG inspection (if applicable)
- Capacity rating posted and not exceeded
- Required safety equipment: fire extinguisher, horn, navigation lights, USCG-approved PFDs for all occupants
- Operator trained and experienced in boat handling
- Kill switch / lanyard required on outboard-powered boats

## 7.0 DIVING OPERATIONS

Commercial diving operations are governed by 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T (1910.401-441):

- max depth 130 fsw, standby diver available, no decompression diving unless chamber on site, buddy system

29 CFR 1910.424

- safe practices manual covering diving procedures, emergency procedures, equipment procedures

29 CFR 1910.420

- Written safe practices manual covering: dive team organization, equipment procedures, emergency procedures (including recompression), decompression procedures, hazardous material diving procedures. Mu

29 CFR 1910.420

- SCUBA: max 130 fsw. Mixed gas required beyond air diving limits. Decompression chamber on site when decompression diving. Liveboating procedures for drift diving.

29 CFR 1910.424-427

- 29 CFR 1926.1201

29 CFR 1926.1201(b)(3)

- the means used to inspect the hoppers

**Diving operations require a qualified dive team, dive plan, and designated person-in-charge. This is a specialized operation - do not attempt without qualified dive contractors.**

## 8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Monitor weather forecasts before and during marine operations
- Establish wind speed and wave height thresholds for stopping work (project-specific)
- Lightning: stop all work and move to enclosed shelter when lightning is within 10 miles
- Tidal changes: know the tide schedule and plan work accordingly
- Current: assess current speed and direction for barge positioning and diving operations
- Visibility: suspend operations when visibility drops below safe working limits
- Water temperature: cold water operations require additional PPE and shortened exposure times

## 9.0 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESCUE

### 9.1 Man Overboard

Every marine construction project must have a written Man Overboard procedure, posted at the work site, and practiced before work begins. See Appendix B.

- Designate a rescue team with assigned roles
- Rescue skiff manned or immediately deployable at all times
- Ring buoys with 90 ft of line at multiple locations
- All rescue personnel trained in water rescue and CPR
- Practice drill before work begins and monthly thereafter

### 9.2 Emergency Communications

- VHF marine radio (Channel 16 for emergencies)
- Cell phone as backup (verify coverage at the work site)
- Emergency contact numbers posted: USCG, local fire/rescue, project office
- Air horn or whistle for man overboard alarm

## 10.0 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All employees working on marine construction projects must receive training on:

- This Marine Construction Safety Program
- Life jacket use and inspection
- Man overboard procedure (Appendix B)
- Hazards specific to over-water work (drowning, hypothermia, marine traffic)
- Barge safety and access procedures
- Emergency response and rescue operations
- Boat operation (for boat operators)
- Dive operations (for dive team members - per Subpart T)

Training must be documented. Refresher training when conditions or procedures change.

## 11.0 RECORDKEEPING

Record	Frequency	Notes
Life jacket inspections	Monthly + before each use	Replace defective units
Ring buoy inspections	Monthly	Replace defective units
Rescue skiff inspections	Weekly	Engine, hull, fuel, safety equipment
Man overboard drill records	Before start + monthly	All personnel
Barge stability assessments	Before each crane setup	Draft marks, load calcs
USCG vessel inspections	Per USCG schedule	Keep certificate on vessel
Weather monitoring logs	Daily	Wind, waves, visibility, lightning
Training records	Duration of employment	All marine-specific training
Dive logs (if applicable)	Per dive operation	Per Subpart T requirements

Waterway permits

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Project duration

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Corps of Engineers, state agencies

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## California STATE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

### The following requirements apply under California's state plan:

- environmental hazard to marine ecosystems if released
- words "Marine Pollutant" in association with basic description
- maintain copies of any safety data sheets received with incoming shipments, obtain SDS if received without one upon employee request, and ensure SDS are readily accessible during each work shift
- ensure that labels on incoming containers of hazardous chemicals are not removed or defaced
- provide employees with information and training in accordance with subsection (h) except for location and availability of written hazard communication program under (h)(2)(C)
- the hazards of their respective jobs, and in the personal protection and first aid procedures applicable to these hazards
- evidence of conditions that could result in a cave-in, indications of failure of existing protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions
- person's name
- a site safety and control plan
- in-depth hazard and risk techniques
- appropriate entry procedures as described in employer's safety and health plan followed whenever employees enter
- portable or fixed ladder reaching from top of apron to water surface
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- these personnel hoist safety orders
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29 CFR 1926.606(e)

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1926.603(b)

- Oregon
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- at least the following hazards are addressed: (A) Reproductive/developmental toxicity; (B) Central nervous system effects; (C) Kidney effects; (D) Blood effects; and (E) Acute toxicity effects
- by vacuuming or other methods that minimize the likelihood of lead becoming airborne wherever possible
- exposure which would occur if the employee were not using a respirator
- an agreement with the Surety Department for the Conservation Division to properly close and reclaim the site in accordance with approved procedures, on forms available from the Conservation Division a
- the use of reclaimed water in oil and gas operations

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## APPENDIX A: MARINE CONSTRUCTION DAILY SAFETY CHECKLIST

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Inspector:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tide (high/low):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Weather:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Wind Speed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Item	OK	N/A	Notes
Life-Saving	Life jackets available for all personnel			
Life-Saving	Life jackets in good condition (no rips, buckles work)			
Life-Saving	Ring buoys in place with 90 ft of line			
Life-Saving	Rescue skiff available, engine tested, fuel adequate			
Access	Walkways/ramps secure with guardrails			
Access	Gangways properly positioned for current tide			
Access	Non-skid surfaces in good condition			
Barge/Platform	Mooring lines secure and in good condition			
Barge/Platform	Draft marks within acceptable range			
Barge/Platform	Equipment and materials properly secured			
Barge/Platform	Deck free of trip hazards and standing water			
Crane (if used)	Crane inspected and within rated capacity (derated for barge)			
Crane (if used)	Tag lines available for all lifts			
Crane (if used)	Exclusion zone established under loads			
Boats	Safety equipment on board (PFDs, fire ext, horn)			
Boats	Kill switch / lanyard present and working			
Weather	Forecast reviewed - no stop-work conditions expected			
Weather	Lightning monitoring plan in place			
Emergency	Man overboard procedure posted			
Emergency	VHF radio tested, Channel 16 accessible			
Emergency	Emergency contact numbers posted			
PPE	Life jackets worn by all personnel over/near water			
PPE	Hard hats, safety glasses, steel-toed boots			

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX B: MAN OVERBOARD PROCEDURE

**POST THIS PROCEDURE AT ALL MARINE WORK LOCATIONS. Review with all personnel before work begins.**

### 1. ALERT

Shout 'MAN OVERBOARD!' and point at the person in the water. Sound the air horn (3 short blasts). Do not lose sight of the person.

### 2. THROW

Immediately throw a ring buoy or any flotation device toward the person. Throw PAST them and pull back - accuracy matters more than distance.

### 3. ASSIGN

One person designated as SPOTTER - eyes on the person at all times, pointing continuously.

### 4. DEPLOY

Launch the rescue skiff. Minimum 2 crew: operator + rescuer. Approach the person from downwind/down-current.

### 5. RESCUE

Bring the person alongside the boat. If conscious: have them grab the boat, assist them aboard. If unconscious: enter the water only as a last resort - use a reaching device first.

### 6. MEDICAL

Once aboard: assess for breathing, hypothermia, injuries. Begin CPR if needed. Call 911 / USCG.

### 7. REPORT

Stop work. Notify project superintendent and safety director immediately. Document the incident.

Rescue Team Members (fill in before work begins):


(Name / Role / Radio Channel / Location)