

MUD & WATER PREPAREDNESS

Weather is often a factor in creating worksite hazards. With spring rains and snow melt, wet and muddy conditions can become a risk to workers and equipment.

Poor ground conditions can affect both workers and equipment/machinery. Workers can pull or strain muscles, slip and/or fall, or worse. And vehicles and equipment can get stuck or suffer mechanical failure.

Inspection of ground conditions should be part of your daily check.

HOW TO BE PREPARED:

- PPE
- WORKING IN WATER
- WORKING IN MUD
- USE OF WINCH OR TOW ROPE
- HYDROPLANING



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

MUD & WATER PREPARDNESS



WEAR THE APPROPRIATE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Waterproof boots with good traction can help prevent slips, trips and falls. If your foot gets stuck in mud, do not yank it out - instead, slowly work it out by moving your foot back and forth.

WORKING IN AREAS WITH STANDING WATER OR EXCESSIVE MUD

Exercise caution and be aware of potential hazards such as hidden debris or unstable ground. Always identify these hazards and take appropriate measures to mitigate them.

It is important to cordon off unsafe work zones, such as deep-water puddles and large muddy areas, with caution tape or other barriers. This will help prevent accidents by keeping workers away from the marked area and help them avoid getting stuck.

WORKING NEAR WATER PUDDLES

Be aware of the depth of water and the potential for slips, trips and falls. Consider removing standing water by using pumps or other appropriate equipment. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and safety guidelines to ensure equipment is operated safely.

WORKING IN THE MUD

Traction can be difficult to maintain in mud. Take your time and move deliberately and avoid sudden movements or changes in direction that could cause you to slip or lose your balance.

USE OF A WINCH OR TOW ROPE TO GET VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT OUT OF MUD

- Ensure the winch and rope are properly secured to both the stuck vehicle and the pulling vehicle.
- Conduct an inspection of the winch or tow rope.
- Do not exceed the weight capacity of the winch and tow rope.
- Make sure all connections are secure and all employees are clear before attempting to move the vehicle. If the winch or tow rope breaks, they may be in the line of fire.

HOW TO AVOID HYDROPLANING

- **Take your foot off the gas.** If you feel your vehicle hydroplaning, remove your foot from the accelerator. If you keep your foot on the gas, your vehicle could suddenly move in the wrong direction when your wheels regain traction.
- **Don't slam on the brakes.** When hydroplaning, slamming on the brakes can cause tires to lock and cause your vehicle to spin out of control. If you need to stop to avoid a collision and you have anti-lock brakes, press your foot firmly and steadily on the brake pedal without slamming it down. Don't remove your foot until you come to a stop. If your car does not have anti-lock brakes, pump the brake pedal lightly and quickly.
- **Get a grip on your steering wheel.** Hold the steering wheel firmly and keep your vehicle pointing straight ahead when your foot is off the gas pedal — steer just enough to keep the car moving forward and avoid jerking your steering wheel in either direction.

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