



Work Safety Alert **Drowning in Mangrove Swamp**

- 1. Date of Accident :** September 2018
- 2. Place of Accident :** A mangrove swamp
- 3. Summary :**

A gardener while engaging in plant clearing work in a mangrove swamp went missing and was later found drowned.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in gardening work in wetlands or similar places of work from drowning, the proprietor/ employer responsible for the work should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work and the work environment;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments;
- ensuring that every worker/ employee at the place of work who is at risk of drowning, is wearing a lifejacket or using a buoyancy aid which conform to relevant international standards with due regard to the working conditions;
- ensuring that the lifejackets/ buoyancy aids so provided should fit the wearers and should not affect their vision, hearing or breathing, nor contain any component which may cause injury to the wearers in normal use;



- formulating effective rescue and emergency procedures to deal with emergency situations;
- providing suitable and sufficient rescue facilities, including stretcher(s), portable resuscitation equipment and first aid facilities and keeping them readily accessible for emergency use; and taking measures to arrange for the prompt rescue of any person in danger of drowning;
- providing all workers/ employees involved and other relevant personnel with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are conversant with the safe work procedures, relevant safety measures, and rescue and emergency arrangements; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

¹ Click to view document