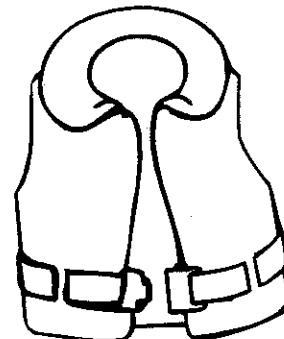


Be Safe In and Around the Water

Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are [available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com).

KEY POINTS:

- Never work in, on or near the water alone.
- Always wear a life vest that's securely buckled when you're out in a boat.
- Don't go near the water if you have been drinking alcohol.



Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a 10- to 15-minute tailgate training session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.

Your local American Red Cross is a good source of information on water safety. If you have Internet access, check this web site: www.redcross.org

Water can be very dangerous

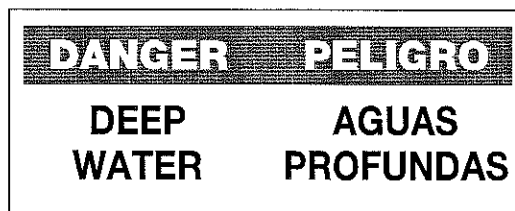
- Lakes, rivers, ponds, lagoons, irrigation canals and other bodies of water are important to agricultural and horticultural operations.
- They're often a source of irrigation for plants and crops. They may also provide water for livestock or for fire protection.
- Some of us are used to being in or around water. But water can be very dangerous, even for the most experienced swimmer or boater.
- Accidents while working in or around water may result in drowning.
- Drownings may also occur when swimmers suddenly encounter sharp drop-offs or unexpected objects in the water; when visitors or trespassers don't pay attention to warning signs; when a person's judgment is impaired by alcohol; or when important safety rules aren't followed.
- Children often drown in farm ponds when they wander in, unsupervised.
- Many irrigation ponds also contain pumps, filters, screens and pipes, which can be dangerous.



Drownings may occur when fishermen or other trespassers ignore warning signs.

Know these water safety "basics"

- Never work in, on or near the water alone. Also, don't swim alone.
- Let your supervisor know if you can't swim or are for any reason uncomfortable around the water. Don't be embarrassed – this information could help save your life.
- Pay close attention to warning signs, including signage around any deep pits or wells.
- If a pond or other body of water is fenced off, don't go inside the fence unless you are specifically authorized. Notify a supervisor if you see a customer or other visitor enter an area that states: Authorized Persons Only.
- Don't go in or near the water if you are overly tired, can't swim, have had too much sun, or have been drinking alcohol, using drugs or taking any medication that could impair your judgment.



English/Spanish deep water warning sign

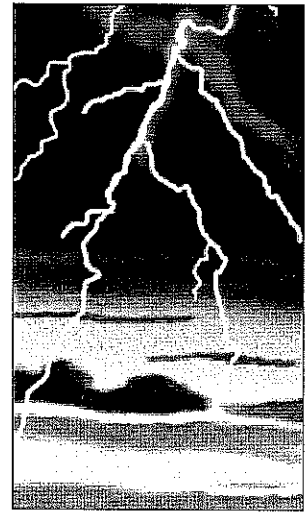
(Continued on back)

See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

Be Safe In and Around the Water

Boating safety tips

- Before going into the water, inspect boats and other equipment to ensure they are in safe working condition.
- Always wear a Coast Guard-approved life vest and keep it securely buckled. Check the buckles and straps before each use. See your supervisor if you have not been trained in the safe use of life vests.
- Pay close attention to the weather. Never take out a boat in a storm. Because water conducts electricity, it's important to come back to shore whenever the weather appears threatening and you are on or in the water.
- Make sure at least one other person is with you and a third person is on shore whenever you are in a boat – even if you're only going to be working on the water for a short period of time.
- Use common sense. Don't operate a boat if you haven't been trained. Watch out for rocks and other sharp objects. Don't go too fast, turn too quickly, or lean over the sides.
- Only boat during daylight hours.
- Stay out of boats if you can't swim, or have been drinking alcohol or using drugs.



Never take out a boat in a storm. Water conducts electricity.

More important water safety tips

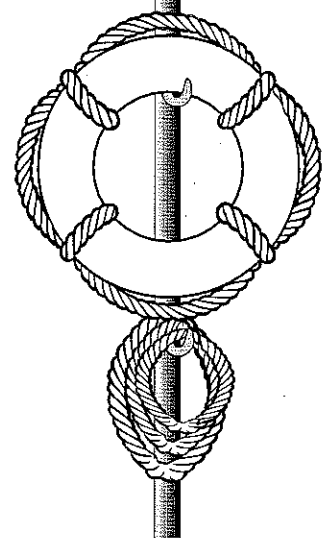
- Know what to do in an emergency. Don't panic, and make sure you know the location of the nearest telephone and the closest rescue equipment before you start work on, in or near the water.

***Note to trainer:** Let trainees know what rescue equipment you provide and where it is located. In addition to life vests, we recommend life buoys or rings, a long rope, and a thin, lightweight 12-foot to 14-foot pole with a safety pool hook. You can attach this equipment to a yellow "rescue post" that includes the location of the nearest phone and emergency numbers.*

- Know what emergency numbers to call to get help. Also, know which employees have been trained in first aid and CPR and how to quickly reach them in an emergency.

***Note to trainer:** Give trainees this information.*

- Don't try to rescue a person in the water if you don't know how to swim. You could both drown. Instead, call for emergency help.



Are there any questions?

***Note to trainer:** Take time to answer trainees' questions.*

*Then review the **Water Safety Do's and Don'ts**.*

WATER SAFETY DO'S AND DON'TS	
<p>DO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay close attention to warning signs with such words as "Danger: Deep Water" or "Authorized Persons Only." • Securely buckle your life vest before going out in a boat. • Return to shore immediately if there are signs of an approaching storm. 	<p>DON'T:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ever work in, on or near the water alone. If you are out in a boat with another person, make sure a third person is on shore. • Leave children unsupervised around water. • Attempt to rescue someone if you can't swim.

See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.