



# Toolbox Talk: Water Hazards

## Background

Water can be a ‘blessing or a curse’ (maybe both), depending on how much you encounter, where and when you encounter it...

- Strive to be aware of the bodies of water on your operation relative to where you are working.
- Location of high water table and low-lying areas around your operation are important as it will help you avoid less machinery or equipment downtime (being stuck) or death by drowning.
- Guard perimeter of sloughs, ponds & dugouts to protect children and animals.
- Farm families & workers are encouraged to take swimming lessons and First Aid including CPR.
- If you must work near a body of water, prepare by not wearing heavy clothing and ensure others check in with you regularly.
- Test the water quality; use for recreation purposes only when supervised.
- Never allow children access without supervision.
- Teach emergency procedures to kids; practice to ensure they understand.
- Ensure warning signs posted around perimeter of water indicating DANGER.
- Mark deep water areas with visible floating markers.

### Sources:

*Alberta Farm Fatalities*. Alberta Agriculture and Food; *Drowning is Preventable*, Water Safety Partners, Calgary, AB;  
*Farm Pond Safety*, Ohio State University Extension, [www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001701-d001800/d001730\\_d001730.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001701-d001800/d001730_d001730.html)  
*Pond Safety Fact Sheet*, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,  
[www.rospa.com/waterandleisuresafety/factsheets/](http://www.rospa.com/waterandleisuresafety/factsheets/) pondsafety.htm ; *Publications and Statistics*. Alberta Medical  
 Examiners Office [www.justice.gov.ab.ca](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca)  
*Rural Water Safety*, National Children’s Center for Rural And Agricultural Health and Safety,  
[www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001701-d001800/d001799\\_d001799.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001701-d001800/d001799_d001799.html)