



**NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

NJ PEOSH ALERT #37



Safety & Health Alert PREVENTING WORKER INJURIES AND DEATHS INVOLVING SURFBOATS

Employees may be exposed to serious injury or death while operating surfboats during both emergent (rescue) and non-emergent assignments (laying-out).

FOR MORE INFO:

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ATTENTION: ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYERS

Please ensure that this information is shared with all appropriate personnel

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- Employees may be exposed to serious injury or death while operating surfboats during both emergent (rescue) and non-emergent assignments (laying-out).
- Employers shall assure that on-duty employees are using surfboats in conformance with the manufacturer's instruction.
- Employers who direct their employees to operate surfboats in connection with their employment must provide adequate training which includes awareness of stuck-by and caught-between hazards. Examples include loss of control events, struck-by oars, negotiating wake, collisions and capsized vessels.
- Loss of control events include pitchpoling, broaching and foundered vessels. Training provided to surfboat operators should include but may not be limited to instruction to operators concerning measures to take to avoid these situations as well as actions to perform if they occur.
- Standard operating procedures adopted by the employer should be designed to produce maximum stability of the surfboat especially during launching and landing.



**OFFICE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH**



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- Employers must conduct a hazard assessment concerning all modes of surfboat operations which evaluates employee exposure to surfboat-related hazards and provide appropriate hazard controls including work rules, operating procedures and personal protective equipment where deemed necessary.
- Surfboat operating procedures should provide for the regular monitoring of weather and facilitate timely discontinuance of marine vessel operations in the event of deteriorating conditions.
- Hazard assessments should pay particular attention to how employees deploy and beach surfboats and evaluate the existence of local conditions such as shorebreak which may increase the risk of loss of control events particularly in the surf zone.
- Employers must ensure that employees are effectively supervised while on-duty and that the employer's procedures are being followed.