

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Flood Operations and associated risks - Event 98/2223 2022\_42\_WHS

### Summary of the issue

Whilst supporting communities of NSW during this current weather event, including prolonged flooding of southern and western NSW, it is important to keep ourselves safe and well. We remind everyone of the risks associated with flood operation activities and the environment members are working in and around.

### Nature of the hazard

Working around flooded waters is an extremely high-risk activity and all members must work within their skill sets.

Some hazards include:

- Fast moving water, flash flooding and flooding
- Collisions with or being struck by boats or submerged objects
- Becoming pinned or trapped by objects under water
- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Exposure to live animals
- Hypothermia and Hyperthermia
- Human behavioural factors, such as error, panic and fatigue
- Landslips and Landslides
- Lightning and thunderstorms
- Powerlines that have fallen or overhead
- Falling trees
- Roadways impacted by flooded waters
- COVID-19 exposure and transmission

WHS information contained in our working safely documents have been identified to assist members in managing safety risks during this event:

- [Driving in Flood Waters](#)
- [Vector borne diseases \(Japanese Encephalitis\)](#) particularly in Southern and Western NSW
- Heat stroke and [The Importance of Hydration](#)
- [Managing fatigue during operational activity](#)
- COVID-19 [Safety Bulletin 2022\\_07](#) and [COVID-19 Management Status](#)

## Action now required

1. To assist in identifying and controlling risks, members are reminded to always carry out a [dynamic risk assessment \(Take 5\)](#), utilising a [Safety Management Sheet \(SMS\)](#) in beacon to document your risks and control measures as well as adopting the [IMSAFER](#) principles in all activities
2. Members to maintain their own safety
3. If it's flooded, forget it! Driving through flood water is to be avoided where possible. Only drive through if a thorough risk assessment is performed as per [Safe Driver Guideline](#). Further information can be found in [NSW SES Flood Rescue Awareness Guide](#)
4. Wear the appropriate PPE/PPC whilst undertaking tasks
5. Report all incidents to 1800 SES OHS (1800 737 647)
6. Contact the WHS Team at [whs@ses.nsw.gov.au](mailto:whs@ses.nsw.gov.au) for further advice

**Authorised by Dean Storey State Duty Commander – 08/10/22**