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SAFETY ALERT 001 – POOL FENCING

Issue

A near miss was reported where a pool fence gate to the rear of a property was left open after works had been completed. Pool fencing is installed to prevent members of the public, in particular children, from gaining access to the pool area. Works near to and upon water is also considered to be high risk works and a SWMS would be required.

Works Near to or on Water

Where works are occurring on or near to pools containing water consideration is to be given to the installation of temporary fencing or pool void covers. This will depend upon the type of work being performed, its duration, the distance to the pool, and if another control measure can be implemented.

For example if works are occurring at height and there is a risk of a fall over the pool fence and into the pool then scaffold with guard railing maybe required, or, if the works are to be of a long duration then pool void covers are another control measure. If the works are occurring within 3m (distance required for an effective fall zone) of the pool these control measures should be considered.

Pool Fence Non-Climbable Zone (NCZ) & Gates

Pool fencing have a non-climbable zone (NCZ) of 900mm from the top of the pool fence. This zone is to be kept free of climbable objects. Pool gates are self-closing and are not to be left in the open position via propping the gate open.



Issued By: Chris Munday

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When undertaking works near to a pool fence we must ensure that we do not create climbable objects within the pool fence NCZ. The following are some items to consider:

- Do not leave ladders unattended or unsecured as they can be used to climb over the pool fence
- Set up work trestles outside of the 900mm no go zone
- Do not lean, stack, or leave materials within the 900mm pool NCZ as they can become climbable objects

Consideration will also need to be given to the type of work we are doing near to the pool fence. If we are repairing or replacing taps, electrical points, timber screening, gates etc we need to ensure these items do not become climbable objects within the pool fence NCZ.





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Pool Fence MakeSafe

Where pool fencing has been damaged during a claimable event it is important that we assess if the fencing can be repaired and returned to it's original state as quick as possible. If this is not possible then a compliant temporary pool fence can be installed until rectification works are completed. Some insurers may require approval prior to installing such fencing. The following is an example of a compliant temporary pool fence:



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