

Safe Accessing and Working on High and Low Level Water Tanks

Water Service Work Instruction

Hazards	Personal Protective Equipment	Tools & Equipment
Falling from heights Fear of heights Objects falling from heights Slippery Stairs Slip & Trip Hazards	Minimum "Cat E" PPE	Keys for compound & ladder Mobile Phone/Two way radio Dry Graphite for lock lubrication CRC Spray Rope

Objective

- detail the correct protocol for the notification of tank access and entry
- detail the safe and correct methods used to access, ascend and descend high and low level water tanks using the facilities designated ladders and stairs.
- detail the safety requirements for climbing and working on water tank roofs.

Note: Climbing Water Storage Tanks

All personnel wishing to climb any Power and Water Corporation (PWC) Water Storage Tank shall notify the appropriate Communication Officer prior to commencing to climb and when they have returned to ground level.

Note: Opening Hatches

All personnel wishing to open any hatch on a Power and Water Corporation Water Storage Tank shall notify the appropriate Communications Officer prior to opening and again when the hatch has been closed and secured.

Note: Confined Spaces

All Water Storage Tanks within PWC have been identified as a Confined Space.

Any person wishing to enter any Water Storage Tank shall comply with the PWC "Safe Working in a Confined Space Procedure".

Note: Working at Heights

All personnel wishing to go onto or work on the roof of a High Level or Low Level Storage Tank must comply with Power and Water's "Working at heights procedure".



Danger



Caution



Tag



Environmental



Permit



Document

Approved by:	Prepared by:	Issue Date:	Status:
Steve McKenzie A/ General Manager Water Services	Andrew Hoffmann Health & Safety Specialist	03/09/2010	Approved
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Contact Details:

Business Hours.

Normal hours of operation between 07:30 hrs (07.30am) and 16:21 hrs (4.21pm) Monday to Friday excluding Public holidays and weekends.

After Hours:

All other hours.

Business Hours Contact Numbers:

Alice Springs Business Hours contact (08) 8951-7340

Darwin Business Hours contact (08) 8985 7170

Katherine Business Hours contact (08) 8973-8969

Tennant Creek business Hours contact (08) 8962-4767

Yulara Business Hours contact (08) 8951-7340

After Hours Contact Numbers:

All Centres: 1800 245 090

Note:

- If you have any fear of heights (vertigo), do not enter or climb ladders.
- Only one person shall ever be on the same ladder at the same time.

Safe Method to Access and/or Enter Water Storage Facilities

1. On entering the water storage tank compound, ensure you close and lock the compound gate behind you to prevent anyone else entering, while you are accessing the tank.
2. Before climbing any low or high level water storage tank contact the Communications Officer for the appropriate area (during business hours) or Hudson Creek System Control (HCSC) (after hours) and advise them of the following details:
 - The name/location of the tank site
 - Company
 - Purpose of the visit
 - Estimated duration
 - Name/s of the person/s climbing and accessing tank

3. Unlock both the ladder compound, and the ladder security guard. Use CRC spray to free the lock if it is stiff or seized.



Ladder Security Guard

4. From the ground, perform a visual inspection of the ladder or stair structure to ensure it is safe to climb. Look for fatigue, faults, and such things as wasp nests and red back spiders.

Do Not enter onto a ladder if you think it is unsafe, report to the responsible PWC Service Coordinator immediately

5. When ascending or descending water tanks ensure that you abide by these guidelines:
 - There shall only ever be one (1) person on a ladder at any one time.
 - Do not carry objects or tools when climbing ladders. Always rope equipment up to the work area, or if necessary use a crane.
 - Never answer or use a phone while on a ladder.
 - Never stand below a ladder when another person is on it.
 - Always face the ladder – never climb a ladder facing away from it
 - Maintain three (3) point contact at all times, i.e. either two (2) feet and one (1) hand or two (2) hands and one (1) foot must be in contact with the ladder at all times.

3-point contact, facing the ladder at all times.



6. Immediately you have gained access to the work platform, replace the safety chain barrier at the top of the ladder to prevent any person falling.



Accessing the roof of High and Low level Water tanks.

1. Roofs on high and low level water tanks **MUST** not be worked upon unless a risk assessment (JSEA) has been completed and control measures determined and put in place.
2. All persons accessing high and low level water tanks should hold current **“Working safely at heights” (MNMG237A)** qualifications to be considered competent to access the roof of high and low level water tanks.
3. If any person needs to access the roof of high and low level water tanks at night a fall arrest system **MUST** be worn at all time while on the tank roof.

Safe Work method for working on the roof of high and low level tanks.

1. All persons should remain on dedicated walkways, platforms or within existing edge protection systems (guards or hand rails) at all times.
2. If any person has to leave dedicated walkways, platforms, work through or under existing edge protection systems or move/work beyond chain/guard rails towards edge of tank a fall arrest system **MUST** be worn at all times.
3. Where there are no dedicated walkways or platforms on water tanks, only an edge protection system, a fall arrest system **MUST** be worn, when going within two metre's of the tank roof edge.
4. Dedicated anchor points should be used. Where no such dedicated anchor point exists, an engineered anchor point, (such as a structural beam), shall be used. Refer to Power and Water Working at Heights procedure for further information.

When descending a Water storage tank ensure you abide by these guidelines:

- Ensure tank access hatch is closed and locked.
- Always replace the safety chain barrier at the top of the ladder.
- There shall only ever be one (1) person on a ladder at any one time.
- Do not carry objects or tools when descending. Always rope equipment down, or if necessary use a crane.
- Never answer or use a phone while on a ladder.
- Never stand below a ladder when another person is upon the ladder.
- Always face the ladder – never climb a ladder facing away from it.
- Maintain three (3) points of contact at all times, i.e. either two (2) feet
and one (1) hand or two (2) hands and one (1) foot must be in contact with the ladder at all times.

Always lock the ladder security guard and compound to prevent public access.

Notify the Communications Officer or HCSC when the task is complete and the work site is safe and you have secured the facility.



Ladder Security Guard Locked Closed