

Written by the Technical Committee of the film and video industry's joint sector-based working group and produced by the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec.



ASSOCIATION DES
PRODUCTEURS DE
FILMS ET DE
TÉLÉVISION DU
QUÉBEC

Work on ice fields

Note. – The following information applies only to work on frozen fresh water.

1. When the production crew must work on a stretch of frozen fresh water, the producer must take all safety precautions to prevent the ice from breaking and to eliminate the risk of drowning or hypothermia when the water temperature is near the freezing point.
2. The producer or the safety coordinator must obtain information from the different departments of the ministère de l'Environnement, local authorities and riverside residents or people familiar with the body of water, particularly about critical spots, fluctuations in water level, as well as about possible vehicle access routes.
3. The safety coordinator shall appoint a person in charge of:
 - evaluating the maximum load and the time it is permitted on the ice;
 - evaluating the characteristics of the site chosen (current, depth, snow cover, wind exposure, access, etc.) and identifying the critical locations (ground water discharges, channels, shallows, inlets or outlets, outside curve of river, etc.);
 - collecting samples of ice to determine the bearing capacity by mainly taking into account the distance between the loads and the time that the ice will be able to support these loads;
 - consulting a specialist if ice thickening work is necessary;
 - checking the quality of the ice throughout the period that the production crew is on site;
 - keeping a record of the meteorological conditions, the places where the ice quality is checked, and the position and nature of cracks, if need be.
4. Before beginning work on the site, the person in charge appointed by the safety coordinator must proceed with ice-preparation work so that personnel and loads can circulate and be deployed safely. Also, he must ensure that clearly visible signs stating the safety instructions (physical limits of the ice surface, speed limits to be respected, maximum weight that the ice can support, parking restrictions, etc.) are installed at the ice surface entry and exit points.
5. The producer must properly inform the production crew about the risks related to work on a stretch of ice and provide them with the appropriate training and supervision.
6. The producer must ensure that the work organization as well as the methods and techniques used are safe and take into account the bearing capacity of the ice.
7. No one must go out alone onto an unknown stretch of ice nor while the ice surface is being prepared. Anyone who goes onto a stretch of ice before the preparation has been completed must wear an approved life jacket.
8. Since vehicle traffic has a critical impact on the resistance of a stretch of ice, the loads travelling on it and the maximum allowable speed must be taken into account so that the ice does not break. Abrupt turns and braking must be avoided and people must remain within the delimited zone.
9. The producer must prepare an emergency plan and inform the entire production crew about it. This plan must include the following:
 - A sufficient number of life jackets, lifelines and immersion suits on the site for all those who might take part in a rescue;
 - A life buoy attached to a solid rope 10 mm in diameter and at least 15 m long, as well as a pole, within 35 m of the site where the crew is located;
 - A heated shelter near the site where the crew is located;
 - The telephone numbers of emergency response services and a reliable means of communication for rapid requests for assistance.

References

Travaux sur les champs de glace, CSST, 1996 (DC 200-640).

Guideline 9, First aid.

Note. – The information contained in this guideline is not exhaustive and does not replace current standards, laws and regulations.