

2.2 PROTOCOL FOR SAFETY IN SAMPLING FROM A BRIDGE

Overview

When sampling from a bridge, traffic may present serious problems either by being in close proximity to you as you sample or when your vehicle is parked either on the road shoulder or encroaching onto the roadway. For this reason you should try to adjust sampling times in order to avoid busy traffic. You should wear a reflective vest and use a pedestrian walkway if it is available. Some large trucks travel at great speeds over bridges, especially if the bridge is located at the bottom of a steep hill. The wind from these vehicles can make you lose your footing and also blow bottles and caps over the edge of the bridge. Dust stirred up by any vehicle can also contaminate water samples when they are uncapped.

Sources

Environment Canada and B.C. WLAP (2005 c), Environment Canada (1999 Draft), Environment Canada (2005 b)

At a glance

*check
visibility*

1 Special care must be taken when sampling from bridges over navigable water, as boat operators and water skiers may not be able to see the sampler ropes. It may be necessary to flag equipment so that it is easily visible.

2 Power lines strung along or close to bridges should also be respected and avoided. At no time should the rope attached to a multi-sampler be draped over a power or telephone line.

3 Certain jurisdictions may require a permit if a person is working or parking on the side of a highway or street for more than 30 minutes. The need for a permit should not be a problem in most circumstances.

*park with
care*

4 If you park on the highway shoulder, hazard lights (and roto-beacon if available) and traffic cones must be used to alert oncoming traffic of your presence (Photo 3). If your vehicle encroaches onto the road, two crew working signs, hazard lights, a circular light and three to six pylons should be used to alert oncoming traffic of your presence.

5 Whenever possible park your vehicle so as not to obstruct traffic. If you are encroaching into bridge traffic, a minimum of three traffic pylons must be used to mark out your work area on the bridge. Two crew working signs must also be used at either end of the bridge to signal to oncoming traffic that you are working on the bridge.

*reflective
vest*

6 Samplers must wear a reflective safety vest to ensure being clearly visible to oncoming traffic.

7 Assess the bridge deck for slip/trip hazards and wear

*be aware of
footing*

appropriate footwear. If sampling from a bridge with a wooden walkway, ensure that the boards have not begun to rot or that there are not missing planks or holes present. Ensure that the bridge railing is secure. Do not lean over the bridge railing.



Photo 3. Traffic control safety
(Source: Environment Canada and B.C. WLAP (2005))