

Fieldwork Safety

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the Occupational Safety web page.

Discussion Date:

General Information

Fieldwork may consist of offcampus research or teaching activities. Fieldwork may occur in remote locations, and can expose fieldwork crew members to extreme weather, hazardous terrain, or other adverse conditions.



Preventive Measures

- Ensure proper training has been completed.
- Ensure a risk assessment has been performed to identify potential hazards.
- Ensure there is a communications plan (i.e., cell phones have coverage and/or two-way radio available).
- Ensure you inform your co-worker or supervisor where you will be working and when you intend to return.
- Have information for emergency contacts (local police, fire, and medical) for the area you will be working.
- Know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- Know the weather forecast for your area.
- Be aware of poisonous wildlife, insects, and plants in the area.
- Be aware of the terrain; uneven ground, holes, mud, and wet grass can contribute to a hazardous work site.

Actions

- Pre-plan fieldwork activities.
- Wear footwear appropriate for the task.
- Always carry a first aid kit, communication device, and water.
- Protect yourself from the sun and heat (e.g., sunscreen, clothing, limit exposure, hydrate) or plan work in the morning or evening.
- Protect against insects and ticks (clothing, insect repellents).
- Whenever possible, fieldwork activities should be performed in teams of at least two people.
- Identify adjacent activities that may impact your location.
- Watch for rapid changes in weather, the worksite or your surroundings.
- Ensure permission has been granted before entering private property.

Supervisor: Participants:	