

Field safety checklist for students and for workers

(last updated 12 September 2022)

Authors: Benjamin Blonder, Will Petry

- Have you discussed the hazards relevant to your work, as well as their likelihoods (risks)?
 - Has your supervisor considered whether any of these risks are created by the interaction between your identity and that of the community you will be working in, e.g. as related to your race/gender?
- Do you have a mitigation plan for each of the above risks? This plan might include:
 - Changes in your actions
 - Changes in your location
 - Changes in your equipment or preparation
 - Additional training
 - Working with another person
- Are you comfortable with the level of risks after discussing with your supervisor?
 - Do you have adequate tools to do the job, and do you know how to use them?
 - Do you have appropriate training for e.g.,
 - First aid
 - Lightning or large animal encounter
 - Vehicle maintenance/recovery
 - Mental health crisis
 - Bystander intervention
- Does someone else know where you will be going, when you will check-in with them, when to expect you back, and what to do if you don't come back?
- Do you understand how long it might take for help to arrive at your field site, and do you have sufficient necessary supplies (food, water, first aid, warmth) to wait that long?
- Do you and your supervisor have adequate documentation of your medical needs and emergency contacts in case of need?
- Do you have a checklist for what items you should bring to the field?
- Do you have a protocol that indicates what steps / actions you should or should not carry out when in the field? Have you been trained on how to use it?
- Are there clear criteria in place for when you should decide to NOT do fieldwork or to STOP doing fieldwork that's in progress?
- Are there clear criteria for how to decide between attempting a self-rescue from a situation versus calling for help?
 - Has your supervisor considered whether any additional risks or barriers to effective help may be created by the interactions with your identity?
- Do you have a trusted contact (someone in a position of authority) you can reach out to in case something goes wrong on your immediate team?
 - Do you have a redundant trusted contact you can reach out to in case your primary contact is unreachable or unsuitable to help in the situation?
- Is there a clear code of conduct in place for your team and any community partners?