

DRI Field Safety Policy

It is Desert Research Institute policy that all students, employees and visitors participating in research in the field will observe and follow safe procedures and practices. The following is a reminder and checklist of recommended procedures and practices that should be followed by all travelers, with the understanding that not every possible situation can be covered by these guidelines. As a minimum, Divisions and Centers are encouraged to adopt this checklist and to require its completion by all affected personnel before the commencement of field projects. (Individual field projects should develop additional safety guidelines as applicable to the work conditions and customize the checklist below.) In addition, Divisions/Centers are encouraged to purchase and maintain a few vehicle kits (sans spare tire and jack) for use with non-DRI pool vehicles. Divisions/Centers are also encouraged to have available for check out satellite capable cell phones for individuals conducting research in remote locations.

Guidelines for Safe Practices and Procedures during Fieldwork

Please read each item, check off the box on the left, sign and date at the bottom of this form to acknowledge that you have read and understood these items. Return the completed form to your division business manager prior to the scheduled work date. If needed, ask your immediate supervisor for further clarification or explanation of any of these items. Note that this is not a comprehensive list of all safety practices that should be followed, since unforeseeable situations may arise.

- Whenever you venture into the field, know the weather forecasts and history of the potential hazards (thunder storms, flash flooding, etc.) for the area and be sure to inform someone else of where you are going and when you will return.
- DRI pool vehicles are equipped with basic emergency equipment. Before leaving on a field project, verify that the vehicle kit is present. Note: Individuals using their personal vehicles or rental cars for use in the field should ensure their vehicle is equally equipped.
- Be attentive to vehicle safety: regularly check tires, oil, etc.
- Contact local officials when appropriate and notify them of what you are doing and where you will be. When in remote or potentially dangerous areas, make sure to check in daily or as frequently as possible. Remember cell phones may not work in remote areas, so plan communication capabilities appropriately.
- Observe all postings (Keep Out, Danger, etc.) present in the study area.
- Do a continual site survey, as conditions may change (for example wildfire). Have a backup plan for escape/rescue if possible.
- Inform your supervisor of any personal physical limitation, medical needs, or health requirements that are relevant to the travel, fieldwork, or field situation.
- Avoid working alone if possible. Nobody should work alone (or out of earshot of other crewmembers) during hazardous operations.
- Working on, over or in water requires the use of a personal flotation device. For work conducted in fast moving waters, additional tethering of the individual is strongly recommended.
- Fall protection is required for work conducted a ≥ 6 feet above the ground.
- For multi-person field trips or field research involving two or more persons, at least one person should have current first aid (including wilderness first aid if appropriate) and CPR training. Classes are conducted at DRI several times a year.

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- Carry at least one first aid kit and check it for completeness and appropriateness before departure; replenish when supplies are low or have expired. Each person should carry a personal survival kit (whistle, twine, safety pin, waterproof matches, candle, etc.)
- Avoid hypothermia in cold weather situations: wear warm clothing, bring rain gear and other protective insulation, such as blankets or tarps, as needed. An extra set of clothing is suggested in case you get wet.
- Avoid hyperthermia in hot weather situations: wear loose, light colored clothing and drink plenty of water; avoid excessive fatigue; rest at adequate intervals.
- Protect yourself from excessive solar radiation by wearing a wide-brim hat, long-sleeve shirt, and pants; use sunscreen and lip balm, wear UV protective sunglasses (or safety sun glasses as appropriate).
- Take proper, advance health care precautions for your specific field area. Ensure tetanus vaccination is current. Other immunizations may be required and prophylactic drugs are often recommended for some foreign travel.
- Carry and use insect repellent when necessary.
- Know how to carry and lift objects without injuring your back.
- Know and practice safe handling and use of equipment and tools.
- Do not handle or use equipment for which you have not been thoroughly trained. Power tools, such as chainsaws, are particularly dangerous. Only trained personnel may operate them. Supervisors must ensure that all necessary training and education is complete prior to assigning work.
- Stay well clear of all individuals using power equipment or other tools. Keep a safe distance from equipment and potentially falling objects or debris.
- Carry some high-energy snack food and an adequate water supply in case of unexpected delays.
- Know how to store various foods and which ones to avoid due to the likelihood of rapid (and dangerous) spoilage.
- Beware of wild animals (bears, mountain lions, etc.), poisonous snakes, spiders, ticks, rodent disease vectors, thorns, and toxic or allergenic vegetation. Be familiar with the precautions needed to prevent exposure to local health hazards such as Hantavirus, Bubonic Plague, Histoplasmosis, or other disease that may be common in the area where fieldwork is conducted.
- Avoid travelling and working in backcountry areas during hunting seasons. If work in these areas is essential, wear bright, reflective clothing at all times.
- Verify the presence and good condition of all required personal protective equipment for fieldwork. This would include, but not be limited to, such items as gloves, eye protection, boots, etc.

I have read and understood all of the items listed and checked above:

Signed _____

Date _____

Print Name _____