UC RIVERSIDE
Environmental Health & Safety

12 MONTHS OF RESEARCH SAFETY
MARCH 2022
FIELD SAFETY

What is the Field Safety Program?

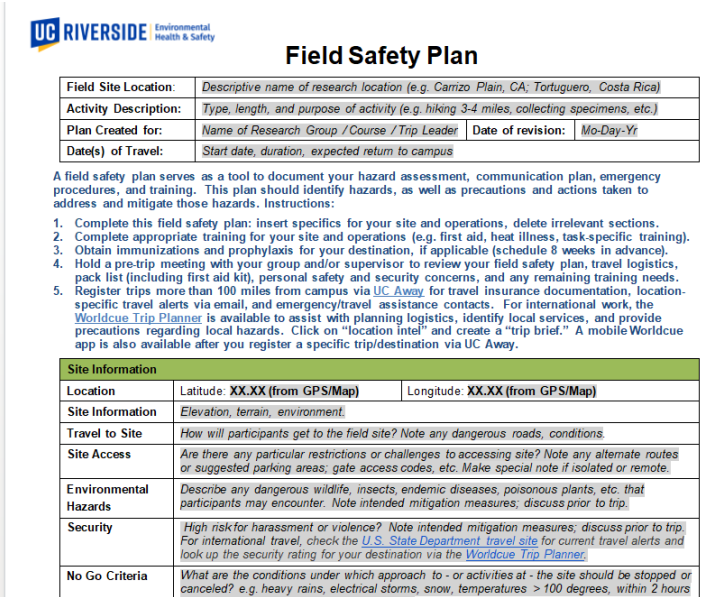
Field work includes, but is not limited to, work taking place in outdoor environments off campus, and work on controlled sites such as construction sites. A large amount of research on campus involves some type of field work. The Field Safety Program helps laboratories to prepare and conduct field research safely, to prevent incidents that injure workers or would otherwise impact and delay research.

Field Safety Program Benefits

Several resources are available when participating in the Field Safety Program:

- Assistance and guidance in completing a UCR Field Safety Plan.
- Assistance and guidance in eliminating risks and mitigating unavoidable risks.
- Access to field work specific training courses.
- EpiPen prescriptions for high allergen risk work.

The Field Safety Plan



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Field Safety Plan

Field Site Location:	*Descriptive name of research location (e.g. Carrizo Plain, CA; Tortuguero, Costa Rica)*		
Activity Description:	*Type, length, and purpose of activity (e.g. hiking 3-4 miles, collecting specimens, etc.)*		
Plan Created for:	*Name of Research Group / Course / Trip Leader*	Date of revision:	*Mo-Day-Yr*
Date(s) of Travel:	*Start date, duration, expected return to campus*		

A field safety plan serves as a tool to document your hazard assessment, communication plan, emergency procedures, and training. This plan should identify hazards, as well as precautions and actions taken to address and mitigate those hazards. Instructions:

1. Complete this field safety plan: insert specifics for your site and operations, delete irrelevant sections.
2. Complete appropriate training for your site and operations (e.g. first aid, heat illness, task-specific training).
3. Obtain immunizations and prophylaxis for your destination, if applicable (schedule 8 weeks in advance).
4. Hold a pre-trip meeting with your group and/or supervisor to review your field safety plan, travel logistics, pack list (including first aid kit), personal safety and security concerns, and any remaining training needs.
5. Register trips more than 100 miles from campus via UC Away for travel insurance documentation, location-specific travel alerts via email, and emergency/travel assistance contacts. For international work, the Worldcue Trip Planner is available to assist with planning logistics, identify local services, and provide precautions regarding local hazards. Click on "location intel" and create a "trip brief." A mobile Worldcue app is also available after you register a specific trip/destination via UC Away.

Site Information		
Location	Latitude: **XX.XX (from GPS/Map)**	Longitude: **XX.XX (from GPS/Map)**
Site Information	*Elevation, terrain, environment.*	
Travel to Site	*How will participants get to the field site? Note any dangerous roads, conditions.*	
Site Access	*Are there any particular restrictions or challenges to accessing site? Note any alternate routes or suggested parking areas; gate access codes, etc. Make special note if isolated or remote.*	
Environmental Hazards	*Describe any dangerous wildlife, insects, endemic diseases, poisonous plants, etc. that participants may encounter. Note intended mitigation measures; discuss prior to trip.*	
Security	*High risk for harassment or violence? Note intended mitigation measures; discuss prior to trip. For international travel, check the U.S. State Department travel site for current travel alerts and look up the security rating for your destination via the Worldcue Trip Planner.*	
No Go Criteria	*What are the conditions under which approach to - or activities at - the site should be stopped or canceled? e.g. heavy rains, electrical storms, snow, temperatures > 100 degrees, within 2 hours*	

The Field Safety Plan is a comprehensive planning and risk mitigation tool for working in the field. The plan details guidance for proper training, effective communication, available resources, incident response, and common field hazards.

Principal Investigators, academic supervisors, field team leaders, and other responsible individuals must evaluate and manage safety risks associated with the research and the local environment and are responsible for managing the projects' Field Safety Plans.

CONTACT US

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Questions?

Report an Incident, Injury or Safety Concern Here

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Field Research Risks

Factors such as weather, insects, animals, and harmful plants are just a few of the many potential risks that could interfere with planned activities. Some risks can be easily eliminated, but some risks, such as high heat in a desert in the summer, are unavoidable.

The Field Safety Program can help to identify the accident potential of the proposed activity, determine Go/No-Go situations, and develop plans to mitigate some unavoidable risks. Conservative judgement, logical reasoning, and the risk equation can be used to assess and mitigate potential risks.

The Risk Equation

		Likelihood	
		Low	**High**
Consequence	**Low**	GO!	Go? Can you mitigate this before proceeding? Is your group developing solid skills, good safe decision-making, and self-awareness?
	High	Stop? Lean towards avoiding these, but can you mitigate the situation to lessen the consequence? If so, this could turn into a go.	STOP!

Field Safety Resources

Visit the Website!

https://ehs.ucr.edu/laboratory/field

The UCR EH&S Field Safety website has additional resources available:

- UC Field Research Safety Manual
- Spotlight on Safety fact sheets on field hazards
- Risk Assessment guidance
- Epipen prescriptions
- and more!

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