

South River Science Team

Safety Program Proposal

SRST Safety Mission

All field activities of the South River Science Team will be planned and performed in a way that provides a safe work environment for all involved.

Basic Safety Principles

1. Utilize appropriate Work Clothes
2. Assess Weather Conditions
3. Evaluate Safety Hazards
4. Implement the Buddy System
5. Be Prepared to Summon Assistance
6. Report Any Injuries, Property Damage and Unexpected Occurrences

Utilize Appropriate Work Clothes

- Purpose
 - Appropriate work clothes will be worn to protect personnel from physical and biological hazards.
- Expectations
 - Pants are recommended (jeans, cargo pants, etc.), shorts with appropriate footwear is permitted when the work requires frequent wading.
 - Short or long sleeve shirt - No tank tops.
 - Closed-toe footwear with appropriate soles for expected conditions or terrain - No flip flops or sandals.

Assess Weather Conditions

- Purpose
 - Evaluate weather forecast to ensure appropriate clothing, equipment and supplies are available, postpone work due to inclement or hazardous conditions.
- Expectations
 - Monitor weather forecast daily and prior to starting work.
 - Do not perform work during inclement conditions (heavy rain/snow, flood, lightning, thunder, etc.).
 - Review signs and symptoms of cold and heat stress prior to beginning activities.

Evaluate Safety Hazards

- Purpose
 - Prior to beginning work, identify, minimize and/or mitigate safety hazards associated with the specific field activities.
- Expectations
 - Complete a Job Safety Analysis, or similar checklist.
 - Review biological fact sheets (ticks, stinging insects, poison ivy, etc.).
 - Review boating safety fact sheet.
 - Personnel in boats must be able to swim.
 - PFD's will be worn while in boats.
 - First aid kits will be available for all field activities.
 - At least one field team member should be first aid trained.

Job Safety Analysis Checklist Example



Microsoft Excel
Worksheet

Fact Sheets

Examples



Microsoft Word
Document



Microsoft Word
Document

Unexpected Occurrence New Biological Hazard Fact Sheet Needed



Bad Ram
Or Just A
Mean Ewe?



Implement the Buddy System

- Purpose
 - The buddy system will be used to assist team members with field activities, provide care and assistance in the event of an emergency, and avoid the lone worker situation.
- Expectations
 - All field work will be performed by two or more individuals.

Be Prepared to Summon Assistance

- Purpose
 - The activities, location, and schedule of the team is known by a third party, the field team is prepared to summon emergency response or medical assistance in a timely manner.
- Expectations
 - The field team will identify and communicate daily with a third party prior to and after completion of field activities.
 - All field teams will have at least one cell phone with 1X capability.
 - A GPS is recommended for work on the water so exact location can be communicated if necessary.
 - Telephone numbers of emergency responders must be immediately accessible.

Report Any Injury, Property Damage and Unexpected Occurrences

- Purpose
 - Reporting of injuries, property damage, and unexpected occurrences will serve to prevent similar incidents, and increase safety awareness.
- Expectations
 - Each organization is responsible to communicate appropriately to their management.
 - Don Kain and/or Mike Liberati will be notified of any injury, property damage, or unexpected occurrence.

Next Steps

- Seek additional review and input.
- Incorporate additions and changes.
- Provide to team in a useable format (field book).
- Monitor and audit usefulness.
- Communicate progress.
- Change, upgrade when appropriate.

Spring 2005 Newsletter

Proposed Articles

- At A Glance - Angler Surveys of the SR and SFSR
- Tech Corner - South River TMDL Development
- Did You Know - SRST Opens an Office in Waynesboro
- From The Team - Geomorphological Evaluation or Bird Study
- Other Topics Mentioned:
 - Sediment sampling procedure
 - 2005 fish tissue sampling (plus historical)
 - “Mercury Levels in SR Fish - Why Aren’t They Declining?”