



Patrol Risk Assessment: Covering outdoor patrol areas, including rural and urban settings

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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Controls Required	Additional Controls	Action By	Status
Slips, Trips and Falls over leading to broken, sprained bones, cuts and bruises or head injuries	SPB Volunteers General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals to be aware of their surroundings. • Stick to paths, roads and even ground and well-lit areas where appropriate. • Stay in patrol groups and be aware of colleagues. • Individuals to carry radios and mobile phones. • Groups briefed on what to do in an emergency. • First aid kit carried in all vehicles. • Patrol groups are told to walk sensibly and take care. 	<p>All patrols must ensure they have the following before leaving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefed the group on specific hazards, • Have the essential kit – fully stocked first aid kit with foil blanket, emergency supplies, radios and telephones, • Uniforms – including high visibility jacket, sensible shoes, appropriate clothing, torch and whistle. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take extra care and time when terrain or conditions are unfamiliar or high risk i.e. muddy, icy, dense with brush or foliage, forest areas. • Patrol groups advised on appropriate footwear, i.e. trainers or boots • Long sleeves and trousers are recommended. 			
Injuries resulting from getting lost such as fatigue or walking into dangerous locations and/or injuries worsening through not being able to evacuate quickly.	SPB Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers must visit all sites prior to patrolling them during daylight hours to familiarise themselves with the area and identify hazards. • All patrol groups must plan a route and discuss the emergency evacuation plan and weather forecast prior to starting the patrol. • All volunteers must be familiar with using the following apps and have them installed on their phones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Google Maps ○ What 3 Words • New volunteers must be accompanied by experienced volunteers. • Control must be informed of the following prior to starting patrol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Start time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction and supervision for new volunteers is essential, and experienced volunteers should be assigned to provide support and lead patrol groups. • Fitness to patrol must be assessed prior to any patrol session, and individuals who are not fit for duty must not go on patrol. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expected finish time ○ Expected call-in times ● The patrol leader must continually carry out dynamic risk assessments and abandon patrols where weather conditions are poor; the group is fatigued, communication with control is unavailable or additional hazards are noted. ● Patrols must not visit high risk areas in the dark – this includes forests and wooded areas, poorly lit areas. 			
Hypothermia from poor weather or inadequate clothing and or bad weather	SPB Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patrol groups will check the weather forecast before starting the patrol and will not start a patrol if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a weather warning advising against travel, ○ If conditions such as snow, ice or fog make visibility below that which is considered safe, ○ If it is below freezing. ● The patrol lead will cancel a patrol if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conditions deteriorate, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team leads must ensure that volunteers are aware of using their own initiative when preparing to volunteer for patrols and bring adequate, weather-appropriate supplies and clothing. ● Control must ensure effective monitoring of weather and timely and efficient communication to patrol groups. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Control informs them of a weather warning, ○ Patrol volunteers must dress appropriately for the weather. ● The patrol team must ensure adequate access to hot drinks if the patrol is extended. ● The first aid kit must hold adequate foil blankets for all patrol members. ● Patrol members must ensure adequate extra clothing, blankets, etc., are in the patrol vehicle. ● The weather forecast obtained will be used to ensure sensible route choices are made. ● Emergency vehicle on standby for quick pick up of affected participants. ● In poor weather, the patrols must stay close to the patrol vehicle. 			
Heat-related injuries / conditions arising from too much exposure from the sun	SPB Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group briefed to prepare for hot weather and dress appropriately and bring sunscreen/hats etc. ● Patrol lead to ensure adequate breaks are taken to rest in the shade. ● Patrol vehicles to carry extra water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As above. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather forecasts are obtained, and good route choices are made. • Emergency vehicle on standby for pick up. 			
Injuries arising from contact with animals or plants	SPB Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals are to be treated with respect and Caution. • Groups not to feed or approach animals. • First aid kit to be carried and staff trained. • Volunteers with severe allergies to carry epi-pen and ensure team members know what to do in a medical emergency. • When patrolling wooded areas, forests or areas with brush or bracken, wear sturdy footwear, long sleeve trousers and tops to reduce the risk of ticks and snake bites. • Be vigilant of low-hanging branches. • Do not use naked flames in wooded areas. • Avoid touching, moving or picking up bracken, unfamiliar plants, large branches or foliage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid training is essential for a minimum of one individual in each group. 		
Injuries resulting from being hit by a motor vehicle while walking along or crossing roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking on busy, poorly lit roads or roads with no pavements to be avoided is possible. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When walking on roads, walk in single file and walk towards traffic. • People at the front or back of the line wear high-visibility vests. • When crossing roads this will be done at crossings where possible. • Individuals to take care when emerging from parked cars, opening car doors, and exiting and entering vehicles. • Individuals to be vigilant at all times when near roads. 			
Assaults and risk of harm from others whilst on patrol leading to harm or risk of death	SPB Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No lone working – patrol must be undertaken in groups of 2 or more. • Individuals must carry communication aids with them at all times (radio and phone). • Control to be informed of area of patrol and time to expect check in – alarm to be raised if check-in is not on time. • Volunteers must not allow non-SPB volunteers into the vehicle. • All staff trained in what to do in an emergency – run, seek safe shelter, call 999. • Volunteers are trained to be non-confrontational, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training is given to all staff and volunteers, including control and patrol groups. • First aid kit in the vehicle. 		

		<p>respect the right to privacy and use de-escalation techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrol members must tell the manager if they have any concerns about their safety and security. • Where possible – keep to well-lit areas and park in well-lit areas close to the patrol site. • Act in a professional manner at all times. 			
Illness from poor hygiene	SPB Volunteers General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitiser then touching others, unfamiliar plants, animals or when hands are visibly soiled. • Volunteers to follow current Government and local guidance on health and safety, PPE and social distancing during epidemics and pandemics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPB management will regularly update staff and volunteers on health and safety issues, including hygiene. 		
Failure to identify and learn from mistakes and/or successes (e.g. when debriefings are inadequate) and Post Traumatic Stress	SPB Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate debriefings and documentation after every incident, accident or near miss. • Reviews of incidents, accidents and near misses – with recommendations and plans put in place to reduce the risk of recurrence. • Management to signpost volunteers to help and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management understands their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act. 		

		assistance in the event of an incident, accident or near miss.			
Emergency situations where others are at risk of harm or death	SPB Volunteers General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the patrol group are aware of the area and this risk assessment and undertake additional risk assessments where necessary. • Follow SBP procedures and manual. • Follow the Health and Safety Policy. • Inform the emergency services. • Make the area safe and prioritise the health and safety of the patrol team. 			

Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 sets out the general duties of employers to their employees, and section 3 of the Act sets out the general duties of employers to persons other than their employees. Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires all employers to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the health and safety of their employees and anyone else who may be affected by their undertaking for the purpose of identifying measures he needs to take to comply with the requirements and prohibitions of health and safety law.

Review: February April 2025 or sooner in the event of an accident, incident or near miss