

APPENDIX D: FIELD SAFETY NOTES AND RESOURCES

Prior to starting field work, please conduct a tailgate meeting with your team to go over safety procedures and make sure you have all the field equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and information you need to safely conduct field work in a hazard area. Some questions and topics to consider and make a plan for during your tailgate meeting are:

- Did you check in at the Clearinghouse and let the registration table/Logistics committee know where you are going?
- Do you have all the PPE you need? Depending on where you will be and the nature of your work this will vary. Equipment to consider: safety vest, boots, hard hat, safety glasses, Kn95 mask, flashlight/headlamp, gloves, traffic cones, and flagging.
- Do you have a first aid kit?
- Do you know where the closest hospital is to the area you are traveling to?
- Do you have a spare tire and the equipment to change a tire if necessary?
- Will you be traveling in a remote area that likely doesn't have cell service? If so, consider teaming up with a team that has a DNR radio and knows how to use it.
- Do you have identifying information (including badge, business card, logo apparel)?
- Do you have essentials for the day? Some things to consider are: food, **plenty of water**, snacks, sunscreen, protective clothing.
- Do you have the maps and data you need on your device to get you where you need to go? Some things to consider: GPS, printed map, road closure information, points of contact, and permission for the area you're going to, if required.

The following list outlines some of the dangers involved in field geology. By being aware of these hazards, we can be prepared to prevent and (or) deal with them. It is by no means a complete list.

- Vehicles—drive defensively, wear seat belts, maintain vehicles, stock them with emergency supplies, and don't take chances.
- Foot and leg injuries—wear sturdy boots and try to watch your step.
- Eye injuries—wear safety glasses when taking rock samples with a hammer.
- Falls—avoid climbing steep rock faces, particularly if working alone.
- [Rockfall](#)—watch for loose boulders and watch your step. Wear a hard hat if you are ever in a setting where an object could fall onto you, such as at the base of a steep cliff.
- Wildfires—plan escape routes and don't linger if a fire is nearby.
- [Hypothermia](#)—keep extra clothes in your pack *at all times*.
- Dehydration—carry plenty of water, and drink it often.
- [Heat exhaustion](#)—at first sign, find shade, rest, and hydrate.
- Animal encounters: Be prepared to encounter animals in the field and learn what to do ahead of time: [Bears](#), [mountain lions](#), and [snakes](#), are just a few examples of potentially dangerous animals you may encounter.
- If you encounter someone who doesn't want you on their land or is threatening you in any way please respect them and their property, apologize for intruding (even if you have permission) and leave. When back at the Clearinghouse we can arrange for site access if possible.
- If at any point you do not feel safe or you question the safety of the situation for you, your field partner, or others in the area, please call 911 if necessary and (or) leave the area and report the issue to the emergency management point of contact for the incident. If you do not know who that is, contact the Clearinghouse manager and inform them.

What to do if you get injured:

- If your injury is life threatening or you are not sure and need immediate assistance, call 911.
- If you need to and can safely get to the hospital then do so as soon as possible. Let the Clearinghouse know that you were injured and where you are.
- If you can treat your injury in the field with your first aid kit please do so. If you are a DNR employee, please let your supervisor know, and fill out an Initial Injury Report ([IIR](#)) within 24 hours of injury.