

Quick Tab 9 - Field safety and remote travel

All the same requirements and regulations that must be followed in labs and facilities must also be adhered to in the field. This includes proper handling, storage, labeling, shipping and disposal of all materials and the use of personal protective equipment.

The distance of most field sites from medical services increases risks associated with any activity; a minor injury or illness can become serious in a relatively short time. Inclement weather can also negatively impact the arrival of medical help or the evacuation of the sick or injured. When traveling in Alaska's remote wilderness, make sure to carry enough food, water, first-aid supplies and medications for a couple extra days in case of delays.

Discussion point: A research team will be heading out to the Brooks Range for a seven-day research trip in October. What are some of the specific provisions required for a trip to this area?

The UA Statewide Office of Risk Management has developed two remote travel guides.

UA Remote Travel Safety Guide **UA Remote Travel Planning and Resource Guide**

The guides provide recommendations on how to prepare and pack for remote travel, and they address the most common health and safety risks associated with remote locations. Review these before leaving on your trip and take the appropriate training sessions. These might include one or more of the following (list is not inclusive):

- Survival training
- Bear safety training
- Firearms safety training
- Aircraft and/or boat safety
- Wilderness first-aid/CPR training
- Driver training

Remote Travel Emergency Plan

Any department with employees and/or students working in a remote location needs to complete a UAF Remote Travel Emergency Plan. The plan should be completed and forwarded to EHSRM and the department/institute director for review several days before travel. A copy of the completed plan must also be filed with a responsible person or office of the traveler(s). This plan should include the location(s) you will be traveling to (be as specific as possible), the planned date and time of departure and return, and how and when communication will be made from the field. This plan also includes important information such as required emergency and communication equipment, required training, and your evacuation plan in the event of an emergency. The person or office that you file your plan with is responsible for initiating search and rescue on your behalf, so don't forget to check in when you return.

Family members on research trips

If you decide to bring your family members on your research trip they must fill out the Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Liability for Family/Friend Accompaniment. If any children ages 12 and under makes the trip, you must have a caretaker who is not a member of the research team.

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