

Safety protocol and SOPs

- Report any safety concerns, accidents, and 'near-misses' as soon as possible.
- Our laboratory space is to be used primarily as an office environment; no chemical reagents are to be stored or used in this laboratory.
- Biological samples are to be stored in dedicated freezers in which no food or drink may be stored. Biological samples must be contained appropriately to prevent any leakage, must be fully labelled, and must be handled with disposable gloves when being collected and transferred between appropriate containers.
- When using a USU vehicle or State vehicle students and technicians must complete the Utah State online driving course and exam before driving. When driving, regardless of the type of vehicle, adjust your speed to road conditions, visibility, and the vehicle's weight.

Field-work specific SOPs (standard operating procedures):

1. Any crew member has the right to veto a situation if he/she deems it unsafe. You are responsible for your safety and the safety of your crew.
2. When traveling/working in wilderness, always carry a Spot/inReach/sat-phone and a first-aid kit, and make sure everyone on your crew knows how to use it.
3. Always make sure somebody outside of your crew knows who you are with, where you are heading, and how long you expect to be there. Set an agreed-upon check-back time. If you do not contact the nominated person by the agreed check-back time, he/she should contact the proper authorities to plan a search and rescue if need be.
4. Unless explicitly discussed and agreed with your supervisor, never work alone – keep within a reasonable shouting distance of at least one other crew member.
5. When riding on ATVs (four-wheelers, six-wheelers, snowmobiles, etc.), always wear a helmet. An ATV may be used only if the operator and all other passengers are wearing helmets, the ATV is in safe operating condition, and the operator is trained on the proper and safe operation of the machine. When driving, regardless of the type of vehicle, adjust your speed to road conditions, visibility, and the vehicle's weight.
6. Always carry a flashlight but (unless explicitly discussed and agreed with your supervisor) never work in the dark (and try and avoid driving in the dark).
7. Make sure you are aware of life-threatening allergies/conditions in your crew and how to minimize the associated risk and consequences.
8. When traveling/working in bear country and season, carry bear spray and be bear aware.

9. When traveling/working during the summer, make sure all crew members are carrying enough water to avoid dehydration. Make sure that all crew members are aware of the symptoms and risks associated with heat-stress, sunburn, and snake/insect bites.
10. When traveling/working during the winter, make sure each and every crew member has adequate warm clothing and is aware of the symptoms and associated risks of frostbite and hypothermia.
11. It is strongly recommended that students or technicians working in the field take a 'wilderness first aid' course, and, if exposed to avalanche risk, an avalanche safety course.
12. It is strongly recommended that students or technicians who ride as passengers in aviation equipment take the A-100 basic aviation safety course. If a student or a technician ride in a helicopter they need to wear an approved aviation flight suit and helmet.

ALWAYS REMEMBER – SAFETY FIRST – WHEN IN DOUBT, CHOOSE SAFETY



"Maybe you should wear a helmet, in case, you know, my math is off."

HAZARD, ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT PROCEDURES

