

## **Manlove lab safety plan**

**Kezia's Cell: (406) 600-2369**

Please report any safety concerns, accidents, and 'near-misses' to Kezia as soon as possible.

The desk workspace in our lab should 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 overview

Many folks in our group are "deployed" to remote locations for intensive field seasons, often in collaboration with partnering agencies.

### **Prior to field season:**

1. Check that vehicle is stocked with:
  - Spare tire
  - Jumper cables
  - Gas containers if needed
  - Snacks, water (if summer)
  - Shovel and chains (if winter)
  - Contact info list (updated for current year)
  - First aide kit
  - Gazetteer or other good map of your area
  - Flashlight
2. Update lab contact and medical background list for yourself and any crew members
3. Finalize your check-in plan with Kezia and update the Spot lists
4. Consider plausible eventualities and risks associated with your site, and take steps to mitigate
5. Confirm that you have completed all partner-mandated trainings that you may need in the field.

### **Field-work specific SOPs:**

1. Any crew member should feel free to raise safety concerns in any situation that she or her deems unsafe. You are all responsible for your safety and the safety of your crew members.
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 both.
3. When conducting fieldwork, plan for any hazards that could reasonably be anticipated and mitigate accordingly.
4. Always make sure somebody outside of your crew knows (approximately) who you are with, where you are heading, and how long you expect to be there. Set an agreed-upon check-back time. Kezia is always a good point of contact at (406) 600-2369; if you cannot reach her, call through the lab calling tree.
5. When riding on ATVs (four-wheelers, six-wheelers, snowmobiles, etc.), always wear a helmet and be sure you have completed any partner-mandated training. 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. Only operate vehicles (cars, trucks, ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles, etc.) for which you are licensed (if applicable), permitted, experienced, and confident
6. Make sure you are aware of life-threatening allergies/conditions in your crew and how to minimize the associated risk and consequences.
7. When traveling/working in bear country and season, carry bear spray as appropriate and be bear aware.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Be cognizant of avalanche risk, and consider and avoid terrain traps carefully during winter studies.

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.
13. Wear appropriate protective gear when processing dead animals. This could include rubber gloves, coveralls, goggles, and protective footwear. It is also required that students and technicians know how to operate processing tools such as knives and saws. Students and technicians also need to know how to collect and dispose of tissue or other samples that one might collect.