URGE
Unlearning Racism in Geoscience

Oregon State University

Safety Plan

Deliverable: Develop and publish a safety plan specific to your pod (lab, university, organization).

The CEOAS POD seeks to create a holistic safety plan (already in process with the CEOAS Safety Committee) that will encompass physical and emotional safety and takes into account that CEOAS members conduct research in many different locations and settings that often require field location-specific safety guidelines. This holistic plan will address the needs of participants without making assumptions about ability/background/existing training or skills. The training/safety plans should empower the student/researchers to identify and speak out about their concerns and needs**. We stress that the onus is on the leadership (lab/field lead/PI) to ensure all members know where to go if they need help, gear, training, or need to report an incident.**

In lieu of a POD-specific or individual lab specific plans, we've identified existing OSU/CEOAS safety guidelines, provided links to the remote fieldwork safety plan template, and provided examples of field codes of conduct that some CEOAS PIs or field research groups use regularly. This document provides some topics for considerations for safety in the field, but should be considered a minimum. Additional topics for the CEOAS Safety Committee to take into consideration are listed at the bottom of the page and were discussed during our POD meetings.

This POD will seek input from past G&G Field Camp, Cascadia and Math Camp students to inquire about their safety training in an effort to learn where we can improve our existing protocols.

Existing resources:
From the OSU Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) :

- EH&S has guidelines on fieldwork safety here: https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/fieldwork-safety
- And this website is where the fieldwork safety guide can be found: https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/remotefieldworksafetyguide.pdf
- EH&S also has a template that is supposed to be filled out prior to departure for remote field work: Remote Fieldwork Safety Plan
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    - Bernard Lab: No, we have never filled this in - this is really the first time I'm seeing it. But we do ensure we meet all safety precautions set out by the US Antarctic Program on all of our deployments.
- Safety concerns can be reported directly on the EH&S website.

From PIs or specific fieldwork-related codes of conduct/safety training information:
Erin Pettit shared the following:

- field team leadership tips https://exploreice.org/field-team-leadership

- a science education research paper she co-authored about ensuring students on a field team (young women) learn the invisible parts of field living and field science https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21548455.2017.1421798

Lerczak/Waldbusser lab:

- Our group has one of these forms on file for an ongoing field project in the Yaquina Bay estuary. It mainly focuses on safety regarding working near water and some of the chemicals my biologist collaborators use.

Fehrenbacher lab:

- We have work to do. My students get dive training on campus, but we did not fill out existing remote safety field work for field trips to the coast or Taiwan.

G&G Field Camp

- Students receive training about how to conduct themselves in the field but are not required to complete any paperwork.
- Wilderness first aid training is provided through OSU EH&S for instructors and TAs
- Feedback from faculty: they are not sure students feel safe and comfortable in the field, but have not had any complaints about the program.
- Most instructors participate in OSU SJEI and other DEI training.

Ship-based and marine operations policies:

- https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/marine-operations-policies: This site includes videos on Shipboard Civility Modules, OSU Equal Opportunity and Access policies, and safety management manual
- The UNOLS Shipboard Civility videos required for ships like Healy, Sikuliaq: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK1ksry28z-G2CNzASte-v5vNXNaMnx-D

NSF Office for Polar Programs Code of Conduct:

- https://www.usap.gov/travelAndDeployment/documents/Polar_Code_of_Conduct.pdf#search=%22code%20of%20conduct%22

Scientific diving and small boat programs:

- Boating:
  - https://research.oregonstate.edu/boating/current-boaters: This website has links to boating/diving related safety, including a boating work plan form, a float plan (this should be completed even if the researcher is using a kayak…!) and incident reports. There is also information about training.
- Diving:
  - https://research.oregonstate.edu/diving: This website has information related to scientific diving including training and safety protocols and incident reports.

Suggestions for improving existing safety guidelines to ensure safety for people of color, LGBTQ, and participants of all skill levels based on this session's resources:

- Provide official university or college apparel that clearly identifies those working in the field and on campus after hours.

- Add a racial risk assessment to the fieldwork safety plan.
- Provide bystander intervention and/or antidiscrimination training to those who lead fieldwork projects.
- Include comprehensive pre-trip group discussions to make sure that everyone is oriented to the logistics of the field experience (i.e. code of conduct, information about camping, necessary gear, typical weather etc.)
- Include training about:
    - Going to the bathroom in the field
    - Dealing with menstruation in the field
    - What to expect on a ship or remote field station (this training is already part of OC 295/495, but may not be offered to students on short duration/PI lead research)