



Department of Earth Sciences

Acknowledgement of Hazard Form

Student Name _____
first last

Student Identification Number _____

Introduction

The Department of Earth Sciences offers field trips and field schools in its undergraduate and graduate programs. Some of these field activities are mandatory, while others are optional, but in all cases they pose potential hazards which differ from those in regular labs and lectures at the university. The purposes of this form are (1) to identify the types of hazards inherent in off-campus events in Earth Sciences, (2) for students to acknowledge these hazards, and (3) to encourage preparedness and safe conduct. *Acknowledging these hazards by reading and signing this form is required before participation at off-campus events will be permitted.*

Students are responsible for dressing appropriately, following instructions, and taking steps to avoid hazards that have been identified or are noticeable. Students are encouraged to discuss known or potential medical issues related to off-campus hazards with a medical doctor prior to participating in off-campus events, and to provide relevant medical information to the course or field trip instructors.

Potential Hazards

1. Transportation. Students who participate in field schools or other excursions will be required to travel to field sites. Types of transportation may include travel by car, bus, boat, helicopter or plane. The Department will take reasonable precautions to avoid mishaps during transportation, but accidents may still occur, and may be beyond the control of the course instructors. Possible risks include, but are not limited to, car and bus accidents, plane crashes and watercraft collisions.
2. Walking on roadways, paths and in the wilderness. Many of the field excursions will involve walking or hiking. Instructors in the Department will endeavor to point out where specific hazards exist, but mishaps can occur in a range of situations. Students should be aware that the following dangers, among others, exist: (1) slipping, stumbling, falling and related bodily mishaps; (2) being struck by automobiles; (3) being struck by falling rocks.

3. Geological sampling, excavation and similar activities. Students will commonly be asked to observe or participate in geological activities such as removal of rocks from outcrops using hammers, and digging into unconsolidated material using shovels and other implements. Safety eye-ware is recommended for these activities. However, accidents may still occur to the eyes or other parts of the body from flying rock chips or dirt, or from incidental contact with moving hammers or other equipment.
4. Drowning, hypothermia, anaphylaxis and shock. Although precautions will be taken by the Department, it remains possible that students may face hazards of weather, water or experiences leading to shock, anaphylaxis, or other serious conditions. Inclement weather, cold water, trauma, allergens or environmental hazards may pose life-threatening situations for students. Students are required to report all known or suspected allergies or other life-threatening conditions to the course instructors for their consideration, and to avoid all known or suspected dangers.
5. Organisms. Contact with certain animals, plants and diseases may occur. For example, bears, cougars, moose, snakes, scorpions, spiders, ticks, wasps, mosquitoes, toxic plants, bacteria and viruses may be encountered in off-campus settings. Students are required to obtain appropriate vaccinations such as those for Tetanus. Insect repellent should be applied when appropriate.
6. Travel to foreign countries. Where travel to foreign countries is concerned, students are responsible for all health precautions and travel insurance. Specific vaccinations or other requirements may be identified by the instructors.

Acknowledgement of Hazard

I, _____ acknowledge that I have read and understood the foregoing summary of hazards related to field trips, field schools and other off-campus events in the Department of Earth Sciences at Simon Fraser University. I agree to provide instructors of every course, for which there is an off-campus event, all information that pertains to my health and safety including known or suspected allergies, medical issues, disabilities and psychological conditions. I agree to abide by the instructions given by the leaders of the off-campus events, and am aware that failure to follow directions may increase my risk of being injured, infected, traumatized or killed. I agree to wear appropriate clothing and safety equipment, and bring accessories such as medication, sun-block, a personal first-aid kit, relevant prescription medicine, and other items necessary for maintaining good health and safety.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Day / Month / Year