

SWP Purpose

Much of the work conducted by GDTA workers is in forested and sometimes remote areas of the trails system. Trail maintenance alone includes increase risks if they are injured or of animal encounters. Working alone on the trail is not recommended and is to be avoided where possible. Trail maintenance under summer conditions includes risks of working alone relative to animal encounters. The SWP purpose is to mitigate risks to workers when working alone on the trails system.

Scope

This SWP applies to all GDTA workers who work alone on the trails system, in remote areas.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities apply to the Trip Manager/Volunteer Lead, all workers, and the Health and Safety Committee.

It is the responsibility of the Trip Manager/Volunteer Lead to

- Discuss the risks of working alone with workers
- Implement the guidelines and controls within this SWP
- Reinforce to workers that any recommended controls must be applied consistently

It is the responsibility of the Workers to

- Comply with this SWP and participate in risk assessment around working alone
- Ensure recommended controls are implemented and used appropriately.
- Immediately report any concerns or incidents to the Crew Lead
- Maintain regular communication while working alone
- Work with a buddy or in a group where possible including walking back to camp. This is not only for safety reasons but also to minimize wildlife encounters.

It is the responsibility of the Safety Committee to

- Maintain this Safe Work Practice
- Perform periodic audits to assess that these requirements/SWP are being acted upon.
- Reinforce that recommended controls are to be implemented and used appropriately.

Hazards

Any risks or hazards of work are accentuated when working alone, as the support of other workers/crew if an incident occurs is absent. Communication is key to reducing risk for isolated workers in remote settings.

Controls

Controls may include elimination/substitution, engineering, warnings, administrative, and/or PPE.

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- High risk tasks **shall not** be conducted alone. **It is up to the Trip manager’s discretion based on assessment of risk and workers experience level.**
 - Carry the most reliable communication equipment. Consider carrying one primary means of communication and one back-up.
 - Inspect and conduct a test run of all communication equipment prior to leaving the trailhead.
 - Ensure that you have communicated to others where you are going, when you should be expected to return
 - Establish a check-in system for updating a worker’s status while working alone
 - Consider consequences of a “worst case scenario” while assessing the risk of a specific task and err on the side of caution

Training

Workers must be adequately trained. All workers who are working alone should have up to date/valid first aid training.

Resources, References, Definitions

Revision History

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>	<u>Personnel Involved</u>
REV 0	Feb -2020	New SWP	D Yanchula
REV 1	May 2020	See bold sections – no working alone for high risk activities	D Yanchula, D Hockey, J Gruttz, D Borthwick
Rev 2	Feb 2023	Reviewed – No change	D Yanchula