

IACUC NEWS
Special Edition for Field Researchers
March 15, 2018

The IACUC is working with EH&S to increase safety-awareness for researchers working out in the field. Field safety concerns range from benign, everyday events such as driving or lifting heavy objects to more specific concerns such as zoonotic diseases or poisonous snakes. During a recent meeting of the UC system IACUC Directors, the topic of field safety was discussed and how ensuring field researcher safety is quickly becoming a top priority, not only for Cal OSHA, but for oversight agencies such as AAALAC International. Additionally, a recent Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) conference focusing on working with vertebrates in field settings highlighted the inherent and varied risks of wildlife research. As such, the UC system and UCSB EH&S have developed specific tools available to researchers to try to mitigate potential safety concerns.

Below is a summary of those tools that are available to researchers:

- [First Aid Training](#)
One of the most basic and important aspects of field safety is first aid. All field researchers are encouraged to attend a first aid training course. [Eric Hessel](#), the UCSB Dive Safety Officer, holds a basic first aid training course as part of the standard boat and dive safety training. In recent years, he has opened up the enrollment for this section of the training to all field researchers.
Register [here](#) for the next training session which will be held on April 20th at 4 PM, Bren 1424. Space is limited.
- [Field Safety Plan Form](#)
This is a tool for PIs and senior field research personnel to help consolidate important logistical information (e.g., emergency medical services, etc.) into one document. Completing this form is optional and it does not need to be submitted; however, [EH&S personnel](#) are available to assist in filling it out. Distributing the completed form to all personnel who will be working in the field is recommended.
- [UC Satellite Device Loaner Program](#), [Garmin InReach SE+](#)
In areas with little or no phone service, this satellite device enables researchers to remain in contact with their institutions or personnel. Access to satellite communication can be invaluable in emergency situations. Researchers who are interested in borrowing the device should read and sign the [UC Sat Device Use Authorization Agreement](#) and make an appointment with [Nelly Traitcheva](#) for a short, in-person “how-to” training and to receive the device.
- UC ANR Environmental Health and Safety, [Safety Notes](#)
These notes are one page summaries of commonly encountered hazards and the precautions that can be taken.
- [UC Away](#)
Through the UC Away website, researchers can register their trip and let the University know when and where they will be working in case of any local emergencies. Please note that registering with UC Away does not include the [insurance](#) needed during your trip.

For more specific information on any of the above tools available, please contact [EH&S](#).