# Risk Assessment – General Field Sites

**Forest Education Foundation**

*Last review: 31 January 2017*

## All forest areas
Risk ratings given with control strategy in place (L= Likelihood, C= Consequences, R=Risk level)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Control strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1  | Uneven and irregular terrain (leading to slips/trips/falls) | B  | 1  | B1 | • Advise schools prior to excursion for the need for closed and sturdy footwear to be worn by all participants  
• Alert group to potential hazards and advise not to run or carry sticks  
• Tell group to move with care and maintain awareness of slippery surfaces, especially logs  
• If conditions too wet/slippy, group remain on established trails. |
| 2  | Travel and movement on forest roads | C  | 1  | C1 | • School made aware at time of booking that we will be travelling on roads used by forestry vehicles  
• Students supervised when crossing/walking along roads  
• Students told to stay on left of road in highly visible location  
• VHF radio with FEF vehicles to inform any forestry vehicles of groups location |
| 3  | Snake bites | A  | 2  | A2 | • Inform the school and students of potential snake hazards in advance  
• Tell students to look carefully before putting hands under rocks, into logs or into dense vegetation  
• FEF staff are first aid trained and carry compression bandage for initial treatment of snake bite  
• UHF and VHF radio in FEF vehicle for emergency contact if needed. |
| 4 | Other bites/stings (and possible allergic reaction) | A | 1 | A1 | • Inform the school and students of potential bites and sting hazards in advance  
• School to provide list and inform FEF teachers of any students with known allergies  
• FEF to maintain awareness of the presence of ants/bees/wasp nests at all times  
• Tell students to look carefully before putting hands under rocks, into logs or into dense vegetation  
• FEF staff carry insect repellent and stingose to be applied only with permission of accompanying teachers  
• UHF and VHF radio in FEF vehicle for emergency contact if needed. |
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sunburn</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>• Teachers/students advised to bring sunscreen and hat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6 | Dehydration | A | 1 | A1 | • Teachers/students advised to bring plenty of water  
• Regular stops during the day for breaks |
| 7 | Overhead hazards (e.g. limb fall) | A | 3 | A3 | • Route paths and stops checked for hazardous limbs, especially after storm events  
• Alternative routes/sites used if necessary  
• Group not taken to forest area if bushwalkers/strong wind/gale weather warnings broadcast |
| 8 | General illness/over exertion | A | 1 | A1 | • Schools/students are advised of the likelihood of strenuous activity and told to match pace accordingly  
• If student feeling unwell teacher can remain with student at bus/trail end until return to school |
| 9 | Pre-existing medical condition | B | 1 | B1 | • Schools/students are advised of the likelihood of strenuous activity and to carry any appropriate medications and self-administer when required |
| 10 | Individual getting lost | A | 2 | A2 | • Students told to stick together and maintain sight of teacher at all times  
• Teachers have all students mobile numbers  
• Regular checks by teachers and FEF staff to ensure all students present |
| 11 | Soil and plant pathogens | A | 1 | A2 | • Students directed to wash hands after touching soil/decaying logs  
• FEF to carry hand wash at all times |
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| 1  | Close proximity to heavy/noisy machinery | B | 2 | B2 | - Students given safety briefing before entering site  
- Students will wear high visibility vests at all times, hard hats, earplugs and eye protection when necessary  
- Students informed of emergency procedures before entering site  
- Group will be signed in by FEF teachers so staff aware of visitor presence  
- Tell group to move with care and maintain awareness of machinery movements  
- Tell group to remain within guided walkways/defined areas at all times  
- Tell group to remain together at all times – staff and FEF teachers to check numbers regularly  
- Staff to remain with group at all times  
- FEF teachers have completed full induction process to site |
- Machinery will be approached ONLY IF INSTRUCTED TO DO SO by machinery operator. In this instance, machinery power will be turned off and the machinery inactive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probability-Likelihood</th>
<th>Very Likely C</th>
<th>Likely B</th>
<th>Very Unlikely A</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C1 Medium</td>
<td>B1 Low</td>
<td>A1 Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C2 High</td>
<td>B2 Medium</td>
<td>A2 Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C3 Extreme</td>
<td>B3 High</td>
<td>A3 Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Low risk**
  - Medium risk
  - Levels acceptable, given that strategies have been put in place to reduce the risk as much as is reasonably possible.

- **High risk**
  - Extreme risk
  - Levels unacceptable, despite all reasonable strategies employed. Activity stopped.