



Environment, Health, and Safety

**Ask Lots of Questions while
Preparing for a Field Visit**



What is the key to a safe productive field visit?

Proper Preparation

- Assessing for Potential Hazards
- Developing a Strategy to Deal with these Hazards
- Allowing for Adequate Time to Implement your Strategy
 - Why? Because, It is always less stressful when you give yourself time
- Have a Backup Plan for Critical Issues
- Preparing (as best you can) for Emergency Situations



How do you do this? – You Ask Questions

Questions to Consider



Who is going into the field?

- How many people are going with you and how experienced are they?
- Have you all received appropriate trainings?
- Are you all up to date on vaccinations for the travel location?

What is going to be done in the field?

- Will you be using hazardous materials or collecting samples?
- Are there hazards related to equipment use?
- Will you be working on or near water? Along the side of a road?



Questions to Consider



Where is the fieldwork being done?

- Rural or Urban Areas? – Culture, Laws, Crime
- Remote areas? – Medical facilities, communication, lodging, etc.
- Local animals, insects, poisonous plants, food and waterborne illness

When will the fieldwork occur?

- Working at Night? – Hi-Vis PPE and light sources
- Will it be Hunting Season? – Wear blaze orange
- Consider seasonal weather patterns – excessive heat, cold, rain



How Can EHS Help? – Trip Planning Guidance Documents



EHS Field Research Safety Website – [link](#)

How Can EHS Help? – Trip Planning Guidance Documents

Planning a Field Research Safety Trip

Form A: Field Research Safety Plan

Where and when will your research take place?

What are the activities being done to collect your research?

What are the destination(s) communication barriers?

Does anything need shipping before arrival or departure?

What are the traveling prerequisites?

How far away is the closest medical facility?

Environmental, animal, weather, and activity concerns

What are the modes of transportation?

What safety equipment is needed? (PPE, etc.)

Form A – Field Research Safety Plan

Consider sharing this form with EHS Field Safety for review. They may pose questions for your consideration and provide additional advice.

This form should be completed well in advance of your field research trip. It will help you plan for the safest possible outcome, while considering unusual and infrequent events.

This form only needs to be filled out once per research destination even if numerous field excursions will take place over consecutive semesters or years. You need only review and add amendments if modest changes are anticipated.

How Can EHS Help? – Trip Planning Guidance Documents

Planning a Field Research Safety Trip

Form A: Field Research Safety Plan

Where and when will your research take place?

What are the activities being done to collect your research?

What are the destination(s) communication barriers?

Does anything need shipping before arrival or departure?

What are the traveling prerequisites?

How far away is the closest medical facility?

Environmental, animal, weather, and activity concerns

What are the modes of transportation?

What safety equipment is needed? (PPE, etc.)

Form B: Coordination Plan

Who is the emergency On-campus contact(s)?

If destination language is not English, who is your staff language interpreter?

Staff and Student Identification Checklist

Have staff and students completed medical travel prerequisite tests and vaccinations?

Are the staff and students trained for activities and emergent situations?

Form B – Field Research Coordination Plan

This form will be shared with your on-campus partners to ensure that communication is maintained in the event of an emergency.

This form should be completed for each field research trip as it provides information about the trip participants, their level of training, language fluency, etc.

EHS does not need to review this form.

How Can EHS Help? – Trip Planning Guidance Documents

Planning a Field Research Safety Trip

Form A: Field Research Safety Plan

- Where and when will your research take place?
- What are the activities being done to collect your research?
- What are the destination(s) communication barriers?
- Does anything need shipping before arrival or departure?
- What are the traveling prerequisites?
- How far away is the closest medical facility?
- Environmental, animal, weather, and activity concerns
- What are the modes of transportation?
- What safety equipment is needed? (PPE, etc.)

Form B: Coordination Plan

- Who is the emergency On-campus contact(s)?
- If destination language is not English, who is your staff language interpreter?
- Staff and Student Identification Checklist
- Have staff and students completed medical travel prerequisite tests and vaccinations?
- Are the staff and students trained for activities and emergent situations?

Form C: Travel Resources Logistics, Agenda, and Emergency Contacts

- Travel Itinerary
- Where will you be lodging?
- Daily Agenda
- Emergency Travel Contact Resources

Form C – Travel Resources & Logistics

This form can be printed out and provided to all trip participants prior to each field research trip.

It will have important information that will need to be accessed even in remote locations or areas with limited online capabilities, such as, travel and accommodation plans, and providing emergency contacts.

EHS does not need to review this form.

How Can EHS Help? – Fact Sheets and More Resources



- [Altitude Sickness](#)
- [Animals - General](#)
- [Animals - Large Predator](#)
- [Animals - Snakes](#)
- [ATV/ Snow Mobile/ Utility Vehicle](#)
- [Avalanche](#)
- [Camping](#)
- [Caves](#)
- [Dehydration](#)
- [Drowning](#)
- [Earthquakes](#)
- [Extreme Heat](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Food/Water Illness](#)
- [Frostbite](#)
- [Glaciers](#)
- [Heat Stroke](#)
- [High Altitude](#)
- [Hiking](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)

- [Hypothermia](#)
- [Insects/ Ticks/ Spiders](#)
- [Landslides and Mudslides](#)
- [Lyme Disease](#)
- [Mechanical Equipment](#)
- [Personal Safety](#)
- [Personal Survival Kit](#)
- [Plants](#)
- [Rabies](#)
- [Snow Blindness](#)
- [Storm and Lightning](#)
- [Strenuous Activity](#)
- [Sunburn](#)
- [Tornadoes](#)
- [Tsunamis](#)
- [Vehicle Use](#)
- [Volcanoes](#)
- [Wildfires](#)
- [Winter Weather](#)
- [Working Near Water](#)



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EHS Field Research Safety Website – [link](#)

In Conclusion

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail” — Benjamin Franklin

- EHS wants you to have **SAFE** and **SUCCESSFUL** field visits
- Asking the right questions can help you prepare for this
- Remember, we are always available to assist at Fieldsafety@MIT.EDU

Global Engineering and Research (GEAR) Lab researchers (from left to right) Georgia Van de Zande, Carolyn Sheline, and Fiona Grant pilot a low-cost precision irrigation controller that optimizes system energy and water use at a full-scale test farm in the Jordan Valley. Photo: John Freidah

