APPENDIX E – Field work

Some questions to consider for field work. Address these in your safety plan if they are relevant. Add your own as necessary.

1. Do you know who is your principle contact at UBC is regarding safety issues, and who is the principle contact at your field sites?
2. Have you informed your co-workers of any pre-existing medical conditions?
3. Have you organized the work to ensure that no one works without a contact person in a field setting?
4. For navigation to and at field sites, do you carry:
   a. topographic maps and a compass (set for magnetic declination)?
   b. GPS unit (with extra batteries)?
5. Are trained in using compass, GPS, or maps for navigation?
6. Are you aware of physical hazards on your field sites?
7. Risk change – is there a likelihood of hazards increasing to the point that activity will be too risky and have to be cancelled?
8. Do you have a clear route into/out of your field sites?
9. If you access sites by helicopter, have you learned how to approach/exit a helicopter properly?

In an Emergency

1. Do you have a means to communicate from your research sites:
   a. cellular phone (with coverage)?
   b. radios?
   c. satellite phone?
2. Do you know how to contact emergency services using your radio or phone?
3. Do you have a check-in system at the end of each field day?
4. Do you have a system for monitoring logging and other field vehicles on roads that you will travel?
5. Have you completed a first aid course in the past 24 months?
6. Have you been provided a first aid kit to use while conducting your research?
7. Are you aware of the contents of your first aid kit?
8. Does your first aid kit include an epi-pen for treatment of allergic reactions?
   a. Have you read the epi-pen directions?
9. Do you know the symptoms of hypothermia?
10. Do you know basic treatment of hypothermia?
11. For your field sites, do you know the location of the nearest hospital?
    a. Do you know how to get there efficiently?
    b. Does your field crew know how to get there?
12. If someone is injured in the field or lab, are you aware of whom to contact regarding the protocols for an incident report?

Vehicles

1. Do you have adequate training and experience driving the vehicle and road conditions your work will require?
2. Do you have an emergency road safety kit in your field vehicle?
3. Have you inspected the spare tire and the equipment needed to change a flat tire?
4. Is your vehicle equipped with a fire extinguisher? Do you know how to use it?
5. Do you have a checklist for safety equipment in the field vehicle?
6. Is your vehicle equipped with forest fire-fighting equipment? Do you know how to use it?
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7. Do you have a checklist for safety equipment to be carried on site with the crew?
8. Are you familiar with procedures for vehicle to vehicle communication in the area you propose to work in? Do you know how to use a radio for vehicle to vehicle communication?
9. Are you aware of the service dates and requirements for your vehicles?
10. Will you use any all terrain vehicles?
11. Are you trained in operating all terrain vehicles?

In Wilderness Areas

1. Have you completed wilderness training courses?
2. How will you monitor weather conditions – do you have plans for inclement or changeable weather?
3. Are you aware of and prepared for the exposure to insects, plants, and or weather that you may encounter?
4. Are you allergic to wasps, bees, other insects? Do you carry medication for this? Do your crew-mates know?
5. Do you have appropriate field and safety clothes for your field work?
6. Are you aware of the wildlife hazards in your study area?
7. Do you have any medical conditions that could affect your safety in the field? Have you discussed these with your supervisor and crew-mates?
8. Do you know proper procedures when you encounter wildlife in the field?
9. Have you completed a bear/wildlife hazards awareness course?
10. Do you carry bear spray and/or bear bangers?
   a. Have you read the instructions?
   b. Attempted to operate your bear spray? Your bear bangers?
11. Do you carry a firearm?
12. Have you all the necessary licenses for the firearm, and do you know the requirements for safe transport and storage?
13. Have you completed a Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education program?
14. Do you use a chainsaw for your field work?
   a. Have you completed a BC Forest Safety Council Basic Chainsaw Operator Training course?
   b. Do you need a licensed faller to complete your research?
15. Do you carry bear spray and/or bear bangers?
16. Are you aware of fire hazards in your area (particularly forested areas)?

On the Water

1. Do you know if everyone on your crew is a strong swimmer?
2. Are there enough life jackets that are rated for the weights of the crew?
3. Do you wear your life jackets?
4. Do you have a set of safety equipment (rope, anchor, bailing device etc)?
5. Do you have a valid Canadian Boating License card?
6. Have you a plan in the case of a boating accident such as a boat capsize?

In the Snow

1. Do you access and review the avalanche bulletins prior to field work, and avoid high avalanche risk areas?
2. Do you carry avalanche transceivers?
3. Is everyone on your crew able to use avalanche transceivers to locate a buried person?
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4. Have you completed an avalanche safety course?
5. Does everyone have sufficient and appropriate clothing and safety clothing for cold conditions?
6. Is everyone familiar with how to check if an ice crossing is safe to cross?

In other Conditions

1. Are you aware of the specific safety needs for your field site (i.e. forest, mountains, desert, etc)?
2. Does anyone have allergies?
3. Is anyone diabetic?
4. Does anyone have a serious medical condition that might affect them on site?
5. Does everyone have a list of required clothing and equipment for the environment, including safety clothes?
6. Falls often lead to injury – what is appropriate foot ware and does everyone have it?
7. Is everyone carrying extra food and water?
8. Do all crew members have a valid full BC driver's license?
9. Do you have a transportation and safety plan for members that do not have a driver’s license?
10. If you have vehicles with standard transmissions, does everyone know how to drive a vehicle with a standard transmission?
11. Is everyone proficient in driving on access roads (e.g. active logging roads)?