The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), a §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works closely with Appalachian Trail volunteer maintaining clubs (“Clubs”) and other public and private partners to ensure the protection and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and experiential resources of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (known as ANST, A.T., or "the Trail"). Approximately fifty federal, state, or other public agencies have authority or jurisdiction over lands and resources within the protected A.T. corridor. ATC has a central management role by virtue of its Cooperative Agreement with the USDI National Park Service and its close working partnership with the USDA Forest Service and other agencies.

ATC's Trail management and conservation policies are meant to provide guidance for (a) dissemination to the public; (b) use and implementation by the ATC and the Clubs; and (c) recommendations for land-managing and other agencies. It is the agencies who work within their defined procedures to propose, administer, and enforce public policy. ATC policies are recommendations developed to support appropriate, coordinated Trailwide management.

Overview
The intent of this policy is to establish a basic guideline of responsibility in the event of an emergency.

Policy Body
Contingency Planning for Emergencies: Law-enforcement, fire-control, and search-and-rescue jurisdictions must be contacted during preparation of local management plans by the clubs and periodically thereafter. ATC and the clubs must establish basic familiarity with the Trail among all jurisdictions crossed by NPS corridor lands, so that there is less confusion and ambivalence when emergencies occur. Specific tasks consist of informing local authorities about the Trail’s location by providing current maps and sharing phone-contact lists for emergencies. Frequently, meetings are needed to explain the A.T. to local jurisdictions so that contingency plans are prepared with local authorities and each partner’s responsibilities are clear. (ATC Board of Managers, April 1987)

Responsibilities and Disclaimers: Authorized law-enforcement agencies have the primary responsibility for responding to and prosecuting crimes that occur on the A.T. or directly affect its hikers. ATC and its member clubs will cooperate in facilitating responses, if requested, but assume no legal responsibility. ATC and its clubs do not assume any duty to warn any hiker of any specific criminal risk on the Trail. (ATC Board of Managers, April 1984)

Incident Reporting: ATC will act as a central repository for reports of incidents to hikers’ security,
ATC Conservation and Trail Management Policy

Emergency Planning and Coordination

law-enforcement violations, fires, and search and rescue. ATC has developed an incident report form and guidelines that clubs are encouraged to use. 
http://www.appalachiantrail.org/hiking/report-an-incident

For questions related to this policy please contact the Appalachian Trail Conservancy at www.appalachiantrail.org, or P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV, 25425-807.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s mission is to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.