

Understanding Safety



Authentic Ambassador for a Culture of Safety

The goal for you as an instructor for this module is to model best practices in safety, in authentic ways that uplift the subject. Topics in this module matter to all volunteers, at all experience levels.

Check-in/Check-out

Use inquiry to have participants think about the value of leaving an itinerary with someone at home. Discuss this importance of this tool for all volunteers, including individuals who work alone, despite ATC's recommendations otherwise. Brainstorm with the group the kind of injury that could make self-evacuation impossible (mobility: ankle roll or break; cognition: dehydration hypothermia, or heat stroke)

Ten Essentials

A quick pack dump offers the chance see the value and importance of each of the 10 essential items. This equalizes experience levels and normalizes carrying everything needed for an emergency (overnight or otherwise) in the field. Either direct participants to ATC page or provide printed list.

Emergency Response Plan

Instead of theoretical discussion, use your course ERP as a teaching aid. Review the contents of your plan, and highlight that ERPs are always site specific.

Operational Leadership 101

Throughout all essential maintenance modules reinforce and normalize being on the lookout for each other. Emphasize preparation and communication, in addition to preventing injury. Preparedness saves lives, particularly in backcountry settings where it takes first responders longer to get to the site.

Making the Call to "Walk Away"

Ask participants to brainstorm ideas for when this safety action could come into play for them. Examples of this could be bad weather, fatigue, poisonous plants, inadequate tools on site, etc. Teach some "walk away" situations might be workable on a different day with different tools, different expertise, better weather, etc. You can also explain that this is an established standard for certified sawyers and that it applies to all other volunteer work.

INSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR COURSE

- Your training day Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- First Aid Kit and Recommended First Aid Kit Packing Lists
- Check-in/Check-out Policy for your organization.
- Copies of a few different JHAs
- PPE for each person
- VIP/VIF Packet
- Work Roster for Participants in Course

If an accident occurs:

Follow guidance in Emergency Response Plan and utilize the VIP/VIF packet to walk through steps for reporting the accident to land management partners and ATC.

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Put it Into Practice

Model the Safety Briefing

Follow the best practices guide for an outline.

Highlight the purpose of the **Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)** to define tasks, identify associated hazards, identify what actions can reduce risk to an acceptable level.

When modeling a briefing of Job Hazard Analysis, you could either:

- Have each person read and represent a section of the JHA.
- Each person could share a stretch (or a joke) and share a hazard that could be present for the work and how to mitigate it.
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For the latter option of participants sharing hazards, the field leader will review any remaining hazards from the JHA.

Afterwards, ask and answer these questions with the group: What if work doesn't have a formal JHA? There are still hazards to identify and mitigate.

What if the risk cannot be mitigated to an acceptable level? Then the work is a "no go," or the work is modified to be safer.

Distribute PPE

Before you distribute, demonstrate use of hardhats, in particular, to show how to adjust for proper fit and function.

Perform a Tool Talk

Demonstrate the appropriate carrying and tool-handling for reducing injury and strain. Don't take for granted that students have any tool familiarity. Name them and then model proper form for their use. Explain safe distance for carrying, working, and passing others with tools. Be sure to include things to avoid, such as roundhouse swings and overhead tool use. Offer "May I pass" as a recommendation for establishing clear communication to avoid tool accidents.

BEST PRACTICES

Tailgate Safety Briefing

Check for:

- Appropriate footwear, clothing, gloves
- Water, snacks, rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent
- Personal protective equipment

Discuss:

- Project, purpose, outcomes, & length of hike
- Emergency action plan and communications

Explain:

- Known work hazards, reference JHA
- Today's hazards: e.g.: weather, hunting season, biological hazards like poison ivy and yellow jackets
- First Aid Kit location
- Protocols for hikers and volunteers passing through work area

Ask:

- Offer 1-on-1 time for disclosure of existing health concerns
- Medical and First Aid Training among crew
- Assign alternate crew leader in event of an emergency

Demonstrate:

- Proper lifting technique
- Proper tool usage (see Tool Talk)
- Safe working distance with tools



Pop Quiz:

True or False: PPE is the first level of safety.

False: There are 5 layers before PPE

Planning ahead

Training

Understanding task and tools

Communication

Checking Complacency