



Risk Management Plan for Cedar Fire Tree Planting

05/20-21/17

The following is a set of guidelines from which WildPlaces (WP) field instructors and guides can use as appropriate to the situation, season, terrain and activity for

Cedar Fire Burn Area and Cedar Wildfire Recovery Project

Elevation 7253 ft

34.24 degrees north/ 116.83 degrees west

The Cedar Fire began at approximately 4:30 p.m., August 16, 2016, on the Sequoia National Forest near Cedar Creek, in the Greenhorn Mountains above Wofford Heights and Lake *Isabella*. *Within four weeks, the human-caused fire grew to more than 29,000 acres.*

1) Prior to any program, instructors/guides should review and be familiar with the Risk Management Plan.

a. Review and update emergency numbers and ensure all instructors/guides are familiar with local emergency resources and likely response protocols. Instructors/guides should write important numbers in their field notebooks.

Emergency #1 911

Emergency #2

b. Review cell phone, satellite phone or radio coverage for areas of field activity.

Cell Mehmet 760.447.1702 Cell Art 559.359.0686

Cell Josh 559.303.4409 Cell Miguel 559.586.9117

Cell

c. Instructors/guides should carry a copy of the Program or Course Roster with participant names, medical information and emergency contact information.

See attached sign-in list for this event

d. Each instructor/guide should carry Site Description and Hazards Assessment (included in this guide) and know locations of First Aid Kit Accident Quick Reference book, Accident Report Form (inside First Aid Kit) Keeper of First Aid Kit for this trip - Mehmet

e. Instructors/guides should obtain and carry a copy of weather and avalanche forecast when available and/or useful as well as prepare in advance and carry site description, maps, etc.

Friday: Mainly sunny. High 63 F lows 38 F. winds NE at 5 mph . 0% precip. Clear sunny

Saturday: Mainly sunny. High 63 F lows 38 F. winds NE at 5 mph . 0% precip. Clear sunny

Sunday: Mainly sunny. High 63 F lows 38 F. winds NE at 5 mph . 0% precip. Clear sunny



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2) Evening Guide Meetings, whether by oneself or with fellow guides, should discuss:

- a. Snow conditions
- b. Risk Management Guide
- c. Current weather and forecast weather
- d. Participant liability sheets, medical history forms
 - e. Time plan, including departure, turnaround and return times. *Using a level of detail appropriate for the program, make notes and record your thought process, decisions and observations in your field notebook.

8.30 p Departure Saturday morning

11 am – arrive at site,

11-11.30 – sort tools, distribute PPE, scout site, divide into teams of two

11.30 – snacks, water

11.30 – 1 p – plant

1p – lunch

2p-4.30p – plant

4.30p day end, gather tools, head to camp site

6p dinner

7p guide meeting

Sunday

8 a breakfast, partial camp breakdown

9a – 11.30a – plant

Lunch

1p – complete camp breakdown

2 p depart for porterville

3) Before Departure on Saturday morning: Check Application, Medical, Liability and Media Release Forms

WP instructors will check course roster to make sure all participants have completed and returned Application, Medical and Release Forms. Cross check with Course Roster on day of to make sure all participants have filled out, signed and returned forms. If not, instructors/guides must ask participant if they have brought theirs filled out to be collected. If not, the instructors/guides must ask to fill them out.

- a. Ask all members of the group during orientation if they have any questions of risks or hazards that are mentioned in the Release Form. Avoid answering any questions pertaining to legal matters we are not qualified to answer.
- b. Ask if anyone needs to discuss any medical issues with you.
- c. For selected programs, a Participant Screening Questionnaire may be available in the guide packet for the instructor/guide to review to help determine client profiles.



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4) Communications - Will use only two way radio for on site communications; FS radio needs to be details and reviewed with FS personnel.

Guides should radio practice before events and have a hard copy of USFS channels, appropriate to the situation and time allowances on every program possible.

5) Operational Records

Daily operations, hazard forms, observations and field tests recorded in guide's field notebooks should be photo copied and filed in office folder and originals kept in field guides folder. These copies should be reviewed by all guides to become aware of the recent hazard and trend analysis. The following topics should be considered when appropriate for backcountry programs

- a. Morning weather observations
- b. Weather forecast
- c. Stability rating
- d. Other hazards (increased rock fall, crowding, etc.)
- e. Other field observations

6) Emergency Response Plan

24-hour contact person in Porterville/Springville is Chico Garza 415.254.8447

- a. Local medical facility: Sierra View Hospital 465 W. Putnam; Porterville, CA 93257
- b. At the trailhead, instructors and guides inform participants of immediate emergency plan to include radio communications, emergency contacts, first aid kit, vehicle key locations, directions and bearings of locations and landscape features
- c. Self-rescue is the instructor/guide's responsibility. Outside rescue is only a backup. Each instructor/guide is responsible to organize the following group emergency gear for each activity category to include:
 - Rock climbing
 - Snow Shoeing/snowboard touring and mountaineering
- d. Basic items for all categories include:
 - a. Field notebook with emergency plan & emergency contact numbers
 - b. Course roster with participant names and emergency contacts (This roster should be carried in Guide's Field Notebook, then returned to Guide's Packet envelope after completion of program)
 - c. First aid kit Emergency bivouac sack
 - d. Electronic communications
 - e. Watch



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- f. Accident Quick Reference form
 - g. Accident Report form Patient Assessment form
 - h. Site Description form
 - i. Camera (digital, film or small disposable)
 - j. Water, food and warm clothing
 - k. Also consider for Rock Climbing: Additional rope, protection, carabiners, sling and cordage for rescue
 - l. Also consider for backcountry: Fire starter or mini stove and fuel Winter Ice Climbing Additional protection, carabiners, sling and cordage for rescue \ shovel in vehicle at trailhead, Map, compass, altimeter, GPS (when appropriate) Repair kit, Spare food, water and extra clothing.
7. Incident/Accident Forms

a. To be filled out after each incident where an injury has occurred. (See Technical Handbook for Professional Mountain Guides to make photocopies.

b. Post incident/accident debriefs are to take place with ALL instructors/guides and participants regardless of whether or not they were involved in the accident.

c. A record must be kept of the discussion.

d. Close calls (no injuries or actual avalanche involvements) should be debriefed in the same fashion.

The group as a whole should be involved in this discussion to avoid changes in the facts in people's minds. Explain what happened and why. Regardless of type of incident, instructors should go through their own "end of day" internal review.

8. Serious Accident With Injury or Death

a. First Call to off-site emergency coordinator. They will begin emergency rescue/evac,

b. Second Call to WP program and executive administrative director who will contact WP Board, insurance carrier, and contact victim or patient family.

c. Third call is to insurance carrier directly. This will be followed (or possibly preceded by the WP ED or Board President), but a call from the field to insurance should happen.

d. Guide will not contact family

Field Guide/Leaders will:

- Cooperate with medical, police and rescue authorities.
- Get statements from witnesses. Written in their own words and signed. Note anyone refusing first aid, assistance or anyone who is a witness but refuses to make a statement.
- Photographs, videotape recordings, measurements, distances and other visual and technical records and data are beneficial.
- Do not conceal or alter facts.



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- Refrain on commenting on accidents or incidents. Avoid speculation or assessing fault, blame or cause; whether the accident involves your party or any other.
- In case of fatality, do not move the body without permission from authorities.
- Information gathered by guides may be protected from use by others, including investigating authorities and agencies. This requires prior arrangements with legal counsel.
- Beware of making off-the-cuff statements to the media. Let authorities deal with the media. Appoint a media contact to coordinate such efforts if possible.
- Contact a representative of WP Executive Board to inform them of the situation and obtain advice if necessary.

9. Hazards of Cedar Fire Burn Area

- a. Roads to trailheads are steep, narrow, and winding. Downshift even in automatics to prevent burnout of transmission going up and burned-out brakes going down. If moving slow (and WP vehicles should be going slow), use turnouts to let vehicles come past. Seatbelts must be worn and should be confirmed by driver.
- b. Rattlesnakes are best avoided by staying on trails and not reaching into rocks or brush. Monitor children carefully.
- c. Biting insects include bees, wasps, mosquitos, Brown recluse and Black widow spiders
- d. Ticks in the foothills and mountains carry Lyme disease. Check clothing and body regularly. Removing ticks requires forceps and pulling tick by head straight out without twisting. Detain tick for testing.
- e. Poison oak can be very irritating to some. If exposed, wash area with cold water and soap immediately
- f. Rivers can be treacherous all year. Currents can be strong and invisible. Rocks and banks can be very slippery. Monitor children at all times.
- g. Giardia lamblia is protozoan in waterways and causes severe intestinal distress. Avoided by filtering or boiling for three minutes all water and not drinking or brushing teeth with surface water. Allow dishes washed with surface water to dry completely before using.
- h. Mountain lions and bears can be a threat. Avoid hiking alone and watch children. If encountered, don't run or crouch. Stay standing, hands up in the air, raise packs, appear large, stand together.
- i. When there's thunder or lightning, evacuate from ridges, bodies of water and rocky surfaces and lone-standing trees. Get into vehicle, if possible. If hair begins to stand up, Drop to crouched position. Do not lie down flat.
- j. Heat exhaustion results from inadequate water intake and lack of sun protection. One gallon per person per day and hats and sunscreen to avoid.
- k. Snow and cold temperatures may result in hypothermia and should be avoided by appropriate clothes, layers, no cotton.
- l. Loose soil; charred soil can be slippery