

Field Safety Plan

As a result of identity prejudice, certain individuals are at higher risk for conflict and violence when they are in the field (Demery and Pipkin 2021, <https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202008.0021.v1>). We therefore work to minimize these harms by:

1. First, familiarize yourself with general fieldwork hazards and safety issues: [LINK](#)
2. The PI/lab groups will meet with all new lab members to discuss the below guidelines. You can access to these guidelines (and other resources) at any time on the Lab Teams channel.
 - a. Other resources include: resources available about diversity in the sciences, barriers to entry in the sciences and safety concerns (See <https://adairlab.weebly.com/dei.html>).
3. We also encourage discussion on safety during fieldwork, though individual discussion, anonymized feedback (see below), and lab group discussion;

Actions:

- 1) Prior to visiting an established field site or known research area:
 - a) Contact others (especially those who share an at-risk identity) that have previously used a field site at a location where there is a history of risk. We maintain a database of these cases and locations on our Teams channel. You may anonymously document all known cases of risk at field sites or other locations at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Km8NdGWJRu>
 - b) At established field sites, lab members or the PI will introduce researchers (via email or in-person, as determined by discussion) to the manager of those locations or nearby neighbors, if they exist. If there are multiple managers, researchers will be introduced to each manager to minimize any miscommunication that could lead to increased risk.
 - c) When possible, lab members or the PI will show new researchers established field locations, teach them about the specific concerns of that field location, and inform them of the resources in accordance with established safety plans. The resources should have contact information about field site personnel relevant to research and safety (e.g., contact information of the local police department).
- 2) Take advantage of UVM or online training opportunities to increase field safety and promote awareness (e.g., self-defense courses, first aid, safety aids, cultural history course about the location of the field site).
 - a) List of potential opportunities?
 - b) E.g., general field safety, harassment training, and first aid course
- 3) If neighbors or bystanders are a concern, consider leaving a short note at houses (e.g., formal letter from PI with contact information) informing neighbors about research being conducted at nearby locations and who will be conducting the research. Such a letter may also be left with your vehicle, or you may consider posting an official sign describing your research with PI contact information.

- 4) When possible, engage in fieldwork with another person. When this is not possible, have a point of contact (preferably the supervisor or lab manager) who is aware of your whereabouts and expected schedule on a given day. Check in options include via Teams or texting.
- 5) Always carry credentials in case someone challenges why you are at the field site. These include photo ID (driver's license, passports, institution ID), and relevant permits. If desired, the PI will provide a signed letter with contact information that describes your research and on-site activities (on UVM letterhead). We will also provide students with a magnetic UVM car sticker (for non-UVM vehicles) and UVM vest.
 - a) Other options include signs for vehicles and field sites, safety vests, etc. These items are available in the lab equipment storage areas.
- 6) The Aiken Forestry Sciences Lab has a satellite phone that you may use if you are going into areas that have poor cell phone service. Contact Marie English to use this phone.
- 7) If at any time you feel unsafe, you should contact your PI or other lab members (or anonymous reporting: <https://forms.office.com/r/Km8NdGWJRu>) to discuss ways to modify the project. While PIs work closely with researchers, they often do so outside of the field site, and therefore may not know of the risks and dangers therein encountered. It is paramount that at-risk individuals advocate for themselves.
- 8) There is an anonymized survey available (<https://forms.office.com/r/Km8NdGWJRu>) for you to provide **regular, anonymized feedback** to determine the climate and safety of field sites and accommodations, and so that we may respond and address issues that arise.