

Safety Plan – Western Mass 5-Day, May 26, 2012, Holyoke Range SP, Amherst, MA

General observation -- several factors regarding risk will be favorable with respect to this event:

- Because of the date, the chance of cold weather injuries (hypothermia) is very slim.
- Because of the relatively short course lengths, the chance of hot weather injuries (such as heat stroke) is greatly reduced.
- There are no streams that will be dangerous to cross even after heavy rain.
- There are few rock features and the ground itself is not rocky, so the chance of falls, and the danger from falls, are both reduced.
- There are a lot of trails.
- It is a relatively small area.
- Sunset is not until 8:15 pm.
- There is good cell phone service for communications.

1. All search and safety operations shall be the responsibility of the Safety Director, or, in his/her absence, by the Assistant SD. Those responsibilities are:

- a) have a list of necessary phone numbers
- b) assemble, ahead of time, a list of personnel for possible search teams of 2.
- c) decide when a search is needed.
- d) consult with the Medical Director as appropriate

2. The Medical Director shall be responsible for:

- a) any medical decisions or treatment at the assembly area
- b) consulting with the Safety Director about options for reported remote injuries.

3. Reported injury in a remote location

- a) From the reporter, determine the location of the person and the severity of the injury.
- b) If the injury is not serious, but merely disabling (eg, sprained ankle), dispatch a search team to the team to the location, and a vehicle to the nearest road access.
- c) If the injury is more serious, call emergency service, with road access information, and dispatch search team to the location to guide emergency personnel to injured person.

4. Deciding on a search for a missing person

- a) Check with results processing to monitor who has not returned. E-punching will be used, so a list should be available quickly.
- b) Identify, as much as possible from friends and acquaintances, about the missing orienteer: his/her physical capabilities, fitness, orienteering skill, and a description.
- c) Depending on the missing person's characteristics, decide when a search is needed.

5. Search

- a) If information is available about the person's last known location from other orienteers, send a search team around the person's course in the direction that makes that point closer.
- b) If no last known position is available, send 2 teams around the person's course, in opposite directions.

c) Search teams should be equipped with cell phones for contacting either the SD or emergency service, as appropriate.

6. Emergency service. It is not needed, perhaps counterproductive, to have emergency vehicles at the assembly area. The Medical Officer will be available for first aid. Emergency services are immediately available by 911 phone. The nearest hospital is in Northampton, 9 miles from the meet site on paved roads.