

## **Safety briefing for GLORIA Great Basin Field Teams**

Our work involves quite a few hazards. But in spite of repeated hikes to the summits, many hours spent in field work, by dozens of workers, over many years, we haven't had (and never want) a single serious accident. There is only one way to accomplish that—to be safety conscious all of the time. There is no piece of data we can collect that is worth an injury, not even one.

We'll be exposed to strong sunlight, wind, cloud-shade, and very possibly rain or hail. Being prepared for the conditions includes:

1. Good footwear, and extra clothing to keep you warm and dry even in rain and wind.
2. Protection from intense sunlight: sunglasses (an extra pair too), hat, sunscreen
3. Enough water to stay well hydrated...at least a couple of liters for the day

Effective response to accidents. Imagine someone falls and splits open a knee to the bone, or gets a severe head injury...what could we do to help them, and how long would it take us to summon help? We need to be able to offer basic treatment for the wound, to place an emergency call within 10 minutes of an accident, and to care for the patient for hours. Early request is critical, and even at that it is likely that we'll wait 2 to 4 hours for help to arrive.

1. First aid kits, with key items, including a splint, at least available among the team members.
2. Communication between team members. We'll have small handi-talkies for several people.
3. Cell/satellite phone to reach an emergency dispatch center.

Avoid the hazards of rough terrain and high places.

1. Step carefully and don't get in a hurry either hiking or working. Loose or projecting rocks and our survey strings are all tripping hazards.
2. When working near a drop-off remain at least one step from the edge. An accidental misstep or a bump from coworker or wind can then be countered without stepping over the edge.
3. When negotiating a steep pitch keep 3 of your 4 hands/feet on the rock at all times.
4. Be careful not to dislodge rocks, and avoid working directly above someone on a steep slope. If a rock falls yell "rock" to those below.
5. Avoid lightning. Heed the forecast and watch for signs of developing storms. Always leave in time to be well off the summit by the time lightning is a threat. Wet rocks can be much more slippery than they were as you climbed up, and a real hazard if you are hurrying down.

Know your location on the mountain and how to get back to base in poor visibility.

1. Have the simple tools, a map and compass.
2. Have a good GPS and input the location of camp or vehicle. And GPS coordinates (lat/long & NA 83 datum the best) are essential when requesting rescue response.