

Safety Plan

As part of the BC Parks "Volunteer Safety Planning Guidelines" document, we are developing a template for a simplified safety plan that can work for any of our back country projects. There are several items we are looking at, including the following:

- Project safety orientation from BC Parks. This will take place at Evans Beach the morning of June 29th for the six volunteers working that day. Currently, I have Roland and I using the Parks boat that morning, so we will arrive with Dave Heagy and I would guess that the talk will take place around 9:30. On June 30th, Dave will provide the orientation for the three volunteers arriving for the day, either at Slocan or upon arrival at Evans Beach.
- First Aid certification. Is there anyone with a current FA ticket? It can be any level, OFA or Wilderness. If so, would you mind being the designated FA attendant? Please let me know as soon as possible. You will have backup, in terms of experience, as I believe several of us have had FA tickets in the recent past. For instance, mine just expired in April. However, an expired ticket doesn't really cut it, so if you are current, please step forward.
- Chain saw operation certification. Has anyone taken the Forestry course or equivalent? Again, let Dave Smith know right away.
- Emergency contact information. Can all of you supply me with an emergency contact and phone number? I will put it into a list, one for Parks and one for our FA person.
- Medical issues: Once we have a designated FA attendant, it would be in each volunteer's interest to let that person know of any medical issue that could be life-threatening, such as severe allergic reaction to bee stings, etc. and any medications one might be carrying to deal with it, such as an Epi-pen in the example given.

Safety Equipment

We are planning for 2 chain saw operators, 2 helpers and 2 brushers on day one. On day two, we will ask Eric, Delia and Maurice to either help with brushing or help the chain saw crew with moving tree debris off the trail.

- Chain Saws: we will give preference to anyone who has taken the chain saw certification course. Let me know asap. Parks will supply protective chaps and hard hats, with eye screen and hearing protection if needed. Consider steel-toed boots if you have them.
- Weed Whackers and clippers: Parks will supply 2 weed whackers and 2 clippers, but you will need your own safety glasses and gloves and for the weed whackers, hearing protection.
- Helpers: You will need safety glasses and gloves and you may want hearing protection if you are working near the saws. I have spare safety glasses and gloves for two people and I will bring deci-damps for hearing protection, but if you have your own, that's even better.

Communication

- Satellite phone for emergencies, provided by Parks
- For communication during transportation by boat or if we become widely separated during the trail work, does anyone have a set of FRS radios? I will bring a VHF with the Parks frequency for simplex communication between Evans Beach and Slocan.

Wildlife

We are a fairly large group and we will be making plenty of noise on the trail so the chances of encounters are low, however camping is a different scenario and there is a possibility that a smaller group of brushers may get ahead of the saws, so we should take some precautions.

- Bear spray: I'm going to suggest that just those who are camping should bring it, which means we will have 3-4 cans, which can in turn be made available for others during the day-time trail work.
- Bear caches: these are available at Evans Beach campsite.

Comfort

- insect repellent
- plenty of water
- sun protection
- boots suitable for hiking and offering some protection against sharp branches and other debris being dragged off the trail.