

EGS Excursions: Low-risk Hazards & Recommended Control Measures

Definitions:

Hazard: anything that can cause harm.

Risk: the chance that someone will be harmed by the hazard.

Level of Risk: assessed as Low, Medium or High in the opinion of an assessor who has knowledge of the environment under consideration.

Specific and Medium to High Risk Hazards must be assessed by the Excursion leader and participants informed of any extra precautions necessary to control risks, in the Excursion Planning Form and verbally at the start of the field trip.

Low-Risk Hazards and Recommendations for Control:

Hazard	Level of Risk	Control Measures
Coronavirus transmission within the group, and between participants and the general public	Low	Follow Scottish Government guidance about coronavirus (COVID-19) - https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/ and specific “Guidance for hill walkers and climbers in Scotland Updated 24/08/2020” published by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland https://www.mountaineering.scot/coronavirus Plan excursions to quiet areas, where there is enough space for social distancing. Restrict group numbers to 10 plus leader. Set clear expectations in advance about appropriate behaviour, reinforce this in the safety briefing and by example during the Excursion. Implement “Test and Protect” measures to assist NHS Scotland in contact tracing in the event of a virus outbreak. Cancel activities if local conditions change
Weather Variable, unpredictable weather, i.e. too hot, cold, wet or windy, resulting in hypothermia, sunstroke or dehydration.	Low	Winter - wear layers of warm clothing and good quality waterproofs. Summer - wear light clothing, waterproofs, sunhat, sunglasses and sun block. Always carry spare food and plenty of liquids.
Tides Access cut off.	Low	Consult tide tables and plan visits to coastal sections at low tide or on a falling tide if possible.
Rough Terrain Injuries caused by trips/slips on rough ground or slippery rocks.	Low	Wear suitable stout footwear with good grip to protect feet and ankles. The <i>Excursion Planning Form</i> will specify if boots, trainers or Wellington boots are suitable footwear.
Steep Ground Injuries caused by falling or slipping down slopes or cliffs	Low	Take extra care near exposed edges of cliffs and rock scarps. Stay at least 2 metres back from cliff edges.
Rock Falls Injury caused by rocks/debris falling from cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings.	Low	Wear hard hat when close to base of cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings. Take care not to dislodge rocks when moving above other people on cliff tops, quarries or steep slopes.
Hammering Injury, especially to eyes, caused by flying rock fragments.	Low	Hammering and sample collection is not permitted on these excursions.