

## **2026 Demographic Survey**

### **Safety Protocols**

#### **While you are out in the field, you may encounter these situations:**

- A surveyor on your team is hurt, falls, or becomes ill while out in the field.
- You are involved in a car accident.
- A theft of team supplies or personal belongings occurs.
- A participant becomes angry towards a surveyor and acts out aggressively.
- A participant makes a physical or verbal threat towards a surveyor.
- A participant tries to engage a surveyor in selling/using drugs or similar substances.

#### **For Team Leads, be prepared:**

- Make sure to set clear boundaries, and do not engage in any harmful or unlawful activity.
- Check-in with your team regularly. Update your team of any unsafe events/interactions.
- Know your surroundings. What are your nearest cross streets or major landmarks?
- Encourage your team to avoid verbal or physical confrontation. Walk away to a safe place with other people and/or away from the threat.
- Encourage your team to protect themselves and their body first, not their property or study property (gift cards, tablets, etc).
- Avoid interacting with or touching animals of participants.

#### **For an Emergency in the Field, while Surveying:**

- In an emergency (medical or threat of bodily harm) call 911 if needed.
- Remove yourself and your team from the unsafe area as quickly as possible.
- Recall demographic information about the person/persons involved in an unexpected situation.
- What is around you? Is there somewhere you can shelter to stay safe that has people?
- Check in with your team to make sure everyone is ok.

#### **In the Event of a Car Accident:**

- Ensure personal safety first. Move to a safe location, if possible, to avoid further risk, such as moving the vehicle out of traffic, or standing in a secure area away from the road.
- Check for injuries: Immediately assess yourself and passengers for injuries. Even if no injuries are immediately apparent, stay alert for signs of shock or delayed symptoms.
- If no one is physically injured:
  - Exchange Information. If safe, approach the other party involved and gather essential information. This includes:
    - Full name and contact details
    - Driver's license information
    - Vehicle license plate number
    - Insurance information
    - Take photos: Document the scene, including damage to all vehicles involved.
    - Maintain a respectful and calm demeanor while communicating with the other party.

### **Reporting the Car Collision Incident:**

- Notify Project Lead: Provide all incident details to Amy and designated Point of Contact as soon as possible, including all gathered information, photographs, and any observations about the accident.
- Project Lead will file a Report and complete any required internal incident reports and submit to management as per USC policy. This will likely include vehicle accident reports needed for insurance.
- **If There Is a Major Collision or a Totaled Vehicle:**
  - If the accident involves significant vehicle damage, injuries, or if you are unsure of the severity, immediately dial 911.
  - Provide First Aid: If you or someone else is injured, offer basic first aid if you are trained and able, while waiting for emergency responders. Do not attempt to move anyone unless they are in immediate danger.
  - Notify Project Lead as soon as it is safe to do so, but prioritize calling 911 in emergencies. Let them know the details of the accident and any injuries.
  - **Additional Safety Considerations:**
    - Do not leave the scene. Stay at the location of the accident until it is safe to leave or emergency personnel provide clearance.
    - Be aware of hazards. After an accident, avoid standing near moving traffic.

### **In the Event of Theft:**

- Report the theft immediately to Project Lead with details of what item(s) was stolen, where it happened. We will file a police report if necessary.
- Secure remaining items and avoid speaking to or confronting the thief; prioritize personal safety and follow team de-escalation protocols.

If any of the above situations occur please contact Amy Stein ASAP, 646-391-8637.

Within 24 hours of the incident, please email Amy Stein [Steinamy@usc.edu](mailto:Steinamy@usc.edu) and Ben Henwood [Bhenwood@usc.edu](mailto:Bhenwood@usc.edu) with the details of the incident which include:

- Date and time of incident
- Details and Location of incident
- Names of team members who were involved

In the presence of active **Suicidal Ideation** please follow these steps:

If a participant presents active **suicidal ideation**, meaning the individual has a plan and has communicated or shown you their intent to harm themselves, the protocol is as follows:

- If you are in an agency space, alert the on-site point of contact immediately.
- If you are in the field with your team, you must call either **911** or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at **988**.

### **No Cal/OSHA Regs on Homeless Encampments, but Caution Advised**

*“Outbreaks of certain diseases are associated with homeless encampments. Cal/OSHA has no specific regulations for employees dealing with the homeless or migrants. People are advised to use caution and common sense when encountering encampments.”*