

SSU Marine Science Field Safety Protocols

Assumption of Risk form signed by all participants and filed with Marine Science Department

Safety Communication – if stepping into the marsh, onto a boat/kayak, or leaving campus for research activities:

Field plan/Float plan completed and submitted to:

- 1) Emergency contact
- 2) Marine Science Department contact (advisor recommended, can be same as emergency contact)
- 3) Dr. Carol Pride
- 4) Posted in MSRC (whiteboard in lobby) or MBio (whiteboard behind building)

Marsh

- Field Plan submitted (see above)
- Recommended – second person within sight or in the marsh with you
- Required – emergency contact (including notifying someone in Marine Science Department)
- Check tides – tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
- Check marine weather forecast - forecast.weather.gov (Savannah is on the border of zone AMZ354 and AMZ352)
- Check forecast/radar for lightning - **Cancel/end early if lightning within 30 miles**
- First aid kit (Know location on campus, brought along off campus)
- Boots and/or waders as appropriate
- Sunscreen, hat, water bottle or camel pack
- Knowledge of how to get out of mud
- Extra water
- **On return:** notify emergency contact, MarSci contact, and Dr Pride of your return, check off “returned safely” on Field plan and file with MarSci (MSRC main office or MBio mailbox)

Kayak

- Field Plan submitted (see above)
- Required – emergency contact (including someone in Marine Science Department)
- Required – minimum 2 people with identified “buddy boat”
- Check tides – tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
- Check marine weather forecast - forecast.weather.gov (Savannah is on the border of zone AMZ354 and AMZ352) - **Cancel if Small Craft Advisory in either zone**
- Check forecast/radar for lightning - **Cancel/end early if lightning within 30 miles**
- PFD for each person
- VHF radio (one for the group)
- GPS (one per group)
- Paddles
- Sunscreen, hat, water bottle or camel pack

- If approaching sunset – required glow stick attached to boat, recommend additional flashlight/headlamp
- **On return:** notify emergency contact, MarSci contact, and Dr Pride of your return, check off “returned safely” on Field plan and file with MarSci (MSRC main office or MBio mailbox)

Boats

- Field Plan submitted (see above)
- Required – emergency contact (including someone in Marine Science Department)
- Check tides – tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
- Check marine weather forecast - forecast.weather.gov (Savannah is on the border of zone AMZ354 and AMZ352) – **Discuss with university boat captain if Small Craft Advisory**
- Check forecast/radar for lightning - **Cancel/end early if lightning within 30 miles**
- Verify the following is on the boat:
 - PFD for each person (double check number aboard)
 - Throwable PFD (out and reachable)
 - VHF radio
 - GPS
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Flares
 - First aid kit
 - Anchor Light
- Sunscreen, hat, water bottle or camel pack
- Extra water
- **On return:** notify emergency contact, MarSci contact, and Dr Pride of your return, check off “returned safely” on Field plan and file with MarSci (MSRC main office or MBio mailbox)

Check with your lab for additional safety guidelines