2024 UC Field Safety Leadership Retreat
Bodega Marine Lab & Reserve
March 8-10, 2024
PI Panel Discussion
Questions

1. In your role as a PI, what motivates you to be here and put time and energy into improving safety culture in the field?

2. Can you share examples of successes or novel programs in your department that promote safe field experiences?
Gretchen E. Hofmann, Ph.D.

- Professor
- UC Santa Barbara, Dept of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology

Email: hofmann@ucsb.edu
Websites: Ocean Global Change Biology, FUERTE
Francesca M. Hopkins, Ph.D.

- Associate Professor of Climate Change and Sustainability
- UC Riverside, Dept of Environmental Sciences

Email: fhopkins@ucr.edu
Website: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Lab
My study “ecosystems”
Mobile Labs in the Field
Challenges

• Bathroom access

• Environmental safety

• Road safety

• Encounters with the public (including law enforcement)
Benjamin Blonder, Ph.D.

- Assistant Professor
- UC Berkeley, Environmental Science, Policy & Management

Email: benjamin.blonder@berkeley.edu
Website: Macrosystems Ecology Laboratory
Abraham Borker, Ph.D. (he, him)

- Assistant Teaching Professor
- Faculty Co-Director, Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program
- UCSC, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department

Email: aborker@ucsc.edu
Website: Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program
Questions

3. Are there specific actions you recommend to others here in the room to promote field safety and equity within their own groups and departments?
Questions

4. More broadly, what type of UC systemwide policy implementation would facilitate safer field experiences?
Questions

5. How do you see human identity intersecting with field risk management?
Thank you to our panelists
UC FIELD RESEARCH
SAFETY UPDATE
Sara Souza
UC Berkeley EH&S
Priorities for 2024

UC Away Travel Registration Updates

- Access via ehs.ucop.edu/away
- Improved user interface
- More specificity regarding purpose of travel
- More specificity on destination/lodging location (i.e. not limited to airport cities)

Travel registration is an important risk management tool. If an emergency occurs in your travel destination, this is how your campus Risk Management office will know you are there. Travel registration also enrolls you to receive travel alerts from UC’s security provider, Crisis24.
Priorities for 2024

Field Station Site Visits

Recent UCOP Ethics, Compliance & Audit Services (ECAS) report recommended EH&S site visits for locations used for off campus research at least every three years. Implementation steps include...

- Verify accurate lists of UC-managed sites
- Create standardized field station compliance checklist using online tool INSPECT
- Assemble teams: fire prevention + safety + environmental + emergency management
- Schedule & conduct visits
- Connect with resources to address gaps
- Modify and improve process
Priorities for 2024

Evacuation Plans

Campus Emergency Managers formed a subgroup to look at UC’s remote properties and support this effort by reviewing plans, emergency comms, roles & responsibilities, and resources.

Photo: Blue Oak Ranch Reserve after SCU Lightning Complex Fire (provided by Zac Harlow)
Priorities for 2024

ADD Field Hazards section to LHAT Assessment Tool
Objective is to have PIs acknowledge fieldwork and connect research groups with requirements, resources, and training

H&S Assessment  
Goff, Patrick

Chemical Hazards

C2. Working with hazardous liquids or other materials which create a splash hazard*  
- Yes  
- No

C3. Working with small volumes (<= 4L) of corrosive liquids or solids*  
- Yes  
- No

C4. Working with large volumes (> 4L) of corrosive liquids or solids*  
- Yes  
- No

C5. Working with small volumes (<= 4L) of flammable and toxic materials or wood or plastic burnt or ignited*  
- Yes  
- No

Certified: 01/16/2024
Expiration: 01/16/2025
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening question for all during recertification:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F1. Do researchers conduct fieldwork off campus?</td>
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**Proposed Site Questions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Site questions if F1 is &quot;Yes:&quot;</th>
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<tr>
<td>F2. Do any field sites lack reliable phone service?</td>
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<td>F3. Are any field sites more than 30 minutes from emergency medical services?</td>
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<td>F4. Are temperatures expected to exceed 80 degrees F?</td>
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<td>F5. Are extreme cold or wet conditions expected?</td>
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<td>F6. Will any researchers visit controlled sites such as construction sites, active mines, other research facilities or private property?</td>
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<td>F7. Does research involve international travel?</td>
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Activity questions if F1 is "YES":
F8. **Research Activities:** Do researchers conduct hazardous tasks in the field?
F9. **Field Transport:** Does field site access require driving a vehicle off paved roads or will you be using any chartered transport, specialized vehicles or equipment?
F10. **Hazardous Materials:** Will hazardous materials be transported to/from the field?
F11. **Research Tools:** Will powered tools or hazardous equipment be used?
F12. **Personal Safety & Security:** Are safety concerns increased due to remoteness, isolation, lone work or local crime?
F13. **Other Research Hazards:** Will researchers be exposed to other unique terrain, weather, access or activity hazards?
Priorities for 2024

Emerging Environmental Hazards in California
From a recent Berkeley/UCSF Center for Occupational & Environmental Health workshop on the impact of climate change on outdoors workers:

- Heat illness
- Wildfire Smoke
- Valley Fever
- Mosquito-borne diseases
Thank you for your participation & collaboration
## Learning Environments
- Creating a Safe Learning Environment in Field Settings
- Off-Road Driving: Lessons Learned & Precautions
- Weather Forecasting - Field Work
- Trip Planning: Risk Management for Field Settings
- Risk Assessment Workshop - Field Safety
- Risk Assessment for Outdoor Fieldwork Using Green-Amber-Red (GAR) Model
- Overview of UC Travel & Auto Insurance

## Sexual Harassment
- Setting Boundaries for Personal Empowerment
- Preventing Sexual Harassment & Assault in the Field Sciences
- Building a Better Fieldwork Future Workshop: Preventing Harassment & Assault in the Field
- Boundary-setting, Bystander Intervention, and Personal Safety in the Field

## Mental Health
- Behavioral First Response Skills for the Field
- Virtual field tools to establish expectations and reduce anxiety
- Mental Health in the Field: Best Practices and Pitfalls
- Accommodating Researchers with Disabilities in Field Settings

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging
- NSF Safe & Inclusive Fieldwork Handout
- LGBTQ+ and Safety During Fieldwork
- Creating, Enforcing, and Promoting a Safe Fieldwork Culture for Diverse Researchers
- Accommodating Researchers with Disabilities in Field Settings

[ehs.berkeley.edu/publications/uc-field-safety-leadership-training-series](ehs.berkeley.edu/publications/uc-field-safety-leadership-training-series)
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Learn more:
Program Website
UC Field Safety Leadership Training Library
Sign up to receive seasonal newsletter