



STATEMENT OF POLICY ON SAFETY

This policy shall be read in conjunction with the Brathay Exploration Group 'Accident Procedure', and 'Expedition Safety Code of Practice'.

It is the policy of this organisation that those responsible for management of the Brathay Exploration Group's Trust operations will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of all the Group's employees, leaders and other persons who may attend the Group's activities. The latter will, in the main, be members of the Group's expeditions and users of its Field Quarters - Shackleton Lodge. The matters to which that duty extends include:

1. The provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work that are, as far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health.
2. Arrangements for ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
3. The provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of employees, leaders, and other persons attending the Group's activities.
4. So far as is reasonably practicable as regards any place of work under management's control, the maintenance of it in a condition that is safe and without risks to health and the provision and maintenance of means of access to and egress from it that are safe and without risk.
5. The provision and maintenance of a working environment for its employees that is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe, without risk to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.
6. Within the Group's programmes of activities, employees, staff & participants should operate to well defined and understood safety procedures that are designed to control and minimise any physical dangers and cope with unavoidable contingencies that may arise during activities.
7. Safety procedures within activities should be subject to frequent rigorous examination, discussion, revision, practice, training and supervision.
8. Notwithstanding the former, all employees, leaders, members and other persons attending the Group's activities have a clear duty to co-operate with management in complying with all statutory regulations, codes of practice and the Group's arrangements relating to health, safety and welfare.



SAFETY POLICY FOR EXPEDITIONS, COURSES AND OTHER EVENTS

1. The quality of **leadership** is vital. Experience and sound judgement are the most important constituents; where appropriate they should be reinforced by a nationally recognised training scheme, and by an appropriate and suitable qualification. The ratio of leaders to members should be in keeping with the ability and experience of the group and the conditions to be encountered.
2. Adequate **planning** is essential. The area to be visited must be carefully researched by whatever method is most appropriate. Potential hazards must be clearly identified and contingency plans made, giving due consideration to the availability and reliability of emergency services in the expedition area.
3. There is no shortcut to the acquisition of **skill, fitness and knowledge** by leaders or group members. Progressive and continuous training is a vital feature of the group programme and expedition timetable.
4. The quality of personal and group **equipment** should conform to the standards recommended by responsible national agencies, and should be appropriate for operating in the conditions anticipated.
5. The **procedures** for the conduct of any expedition should be made known to all participants (& parents/guardians if under 18 years) in a reasonable and practicable way.
6. **Awareness of danger** and potential hazards is developed through experience. Leaders need to be able to anticipate the possible risks involved in using particular equipment, in engaging in certain activities, or in using different types of transport. Risks will be reduced if leaders are familiar with members of their group, their strengths, weaknesses, personalities and previous experiences.
7. **Weather conditions** can dramatically influence an expedition and rapidly alter the nature of a locality, and levels of risk. Leaders should err on the side of caution, with an awareness of the worst-case scenario and the extremes which may be experienced in a given locality.
8. **Supervision** is usually more effective if groups are small and accompanied by a designated leader, rather than a large group under the control of several leaders. A **vigilant approach** is required by group leaders to ensure that responsible behaviour is maintained at all times. Leaders should continually update and develop their knowledge of appropriate safety and rescue techniques suited to the varying environments in which they work. **Practice** must always err in favour of safety where there is any doubt. Leaders may wish to designate a Safety Officer for specific activities.
9. In the event of an incident occurring during an expedition or course, involving death or serious injury to a member or leader, then the Group shall set up an external inquiry to establish the full facts and circumstances. Such an enquiry would be additional to any statutory investigation which may be required.