



Canberra Bushwalking Club Emergency Information Sheet

This information sheet and a pen should be carried by all members on all trips.

First Steps

- If injury or illness is involved, administer First Aid, using the contents of several kits if required.
- Record the date and time and the facts leading up to the event and all decisions and actions taken thereafter, e.g. using the other side of this sheet. (This information must be maintained in case of an insurance or legal claim and a copy provided to the Club Check-In Officer (CIO)).
- If the casualty can walk or be carried by members of the party, consider self rescue. A decision to self-rescue should not be made lightly as this may aggravate the injury.
- For emergencies involving separation of a member from the party, conduct your own search/rescue if appropriate but, as a guide, spend no more than two hours on such a search. If there is mobile phone coverage and the leader or another party member knows the missing person's number, try making contact. Keep trying – a phone initially off may be turned on.
- If poisoning is suspected, ring the Poisons Information Hotline on 13 1126 if you can.

Getting help

If you have mobile reception and you ring for help, you can either contact the emergency services directly, or ring the Check-In Officer or the alternate contact and ask him to contact them. To contact the emergency services directly, ring 000 if the situation is life threatening or time critical. Otherwise, contact the Police on 13 1444.

Then inform Keith Thomas, the Check-In Officer on 02 6230 1081 (h) or 0421 607 667. If he is not available, contact one of the following, in this order:

- . Rob Horsfield Walks Secretary 02 6231 4535 (h) or 0428 314 535;
- . Phillip Starr, President, on 0419 281 096; or
- . Stan Marks, General Secretary, on 02 6254 9568 (h) or 02 6274 7350 (w).

Have as much of the following information as you can at hand when requesting emergency assistance. Write it down if you can, don't rely on your memory.

- The grid reference and datum of the emergency include the map name and scale.
- If you have a GPS, the latitude and longitude in degrees and decimal minutes using the WGS84 datum.
- The problem and how serious it is.
- Number of people requiring assistance.
- Number in party, what equipment, particularly shelter and clothing, food and water you have.
- The phone number you are ringing from and an alternative phone number if one is available.
- Possible road access point, approximate distance from your current position and nature of the terrain and vegetation.
- Current weather conditions.

Note that if a search is required Police will probably need to talk directly to the leader at some stage.

In cases of serious injury (e.g. a broken ankle or leg but not a broken arm) or serious illness, you may decide to activate a personal locator beacon (PLB). However, outside help may take hours to arrive, so also consider the requirements of the rest of the party.

If helicopter rescue is a possibility, if possible have available the map reference (or preferably GPS location) of open ground that could be used as a helicopter landing site or winch location and the estimated wind strength. The map reference should be in Grid Reference format and include the map datum (either GDA or ADG66) and map name (or if using a GPS, the datum should be set to WGS84 and the position provided in latitude/longitude format in degrees and decimal minutes).

The Club policy for overdue trips is to allow up to 24 hours for delays, due to weather condition or exhausted party members, before emergency services are notified. If your trip is overdue and not in need of assistance, the leader should contact the CIO as soon as possible in order to prevent any emergency services from being activated.

The Telstra Next G mobile phone network is usually superior to other networks in rural areas. Mobile phones work on "line of sight" to the nearest base station. With a marginal signal, try calling from higher ground. Note that batteries run down faster in areas of low signal strength so charge the battery before leaving and turn the phone off when not needed. Text messaging uses less battery power than voice calls.

