



FIELD SAFETY

Genetic Research on Engineering and Advanced
Transformation of Trees (GREAT TREES)

Overview

- Communication
- Accident reporting
- Field Risks and personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - *Dehydration, sunburn, heat exposure*
 - *Body mechanics*
 - *Bees, wasps, mosquitos, snakes*
 - *Poison oak*
 - *Minor equipment and tools*
- Heavy equipment safety
- Van field safety / fire safety
- Training videos
- Other resources

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Communication is key to safety

Make sure you have all emergency contact numbers on hand at the field at all times

- Amanda Goddard: 541-250-1617
- Chris Willig: 816-872-4734
- Steve Strauss: 541-760-7357
- Benton county sheriff's office non-emergency line: 541-847-5100
- Fire dept. non-emergency line: 541-766-6858
- In the case of emergencies, do not hesitate to call 911 and always know the address to our field site

Communication policy

- Check in / Check out
 - *Text supervisor upon arrival at the field, and text again before you leave*
 - *You do not need to text if you leave the field temporarily for an errand, bathroom, or lunch break*
- Keep your cell phone on you and charged **at all times**
- Report any suspicious or unsafe activity immediately
- If ever you feel unsafe at the field site **for any reason, leave immediately** and let your supervisor know. You will not ever be punished for leaving the job site if you feel unsafe.

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Accident reporting

If ever there is an accident or injury at the field, it **MUST** be reported to a supervisor immediately, no matter how small

- *If injury occurs, work with your supervisor to submit a public incident report form within 24 hours of the injury*
- *If medical attention is required, keep all documentation. If the injury occurred in the course of your work duties, you will be eligible for compensation but only if the incident is reported in a timely fashion*
- *Remember that you may not know you need medical attention right away, so it is important to always report accidents immediately in case medical attention is sought at a later date*
- <https://hr.oregonstate.edu/benefits/workers-compensation-resources/incident-reporting#accident>

It is also very important to report “near miss” occurrences to your supervisor. If an accident almost happened, it will likely happen again. Reporting these occurrences can make people aware of dangers, change protocols, and prevent future accidents or injuries.

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Field risks

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Dehydration, sunburn, heat exposure

Dehydration is the biggest risk during field work—and can occur in all weather conditions

- You must bring AT LEAST one water bottle to the field, and you may refill it from the outside hose/spicket at the front of the house
- Keep track of the amount of water you drink: you need to be drinking **at least two liters** of water per day during cooler weather and non-strenuous activity. **More than that is required during hot days or strenuous activity**
- Covering up is best for sun protection. Wear full brim hat and lightweight, light colored long sleeves
- Sunscreen is provided in the garage, make sure you apply before you begin work, and reapply throughout the day

Dehydration, sunburn, heat exposure

Know the symptoms of dehydration and be alert to them in yourself as well as in the people around you

- Increased thirst
- Dry mouth
- Tired or sleepy
- Headache
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Decreased peeing
- Yellow pee
- Dry skin

Body mechanics

Take all precautions to avoid common field work injuries such as:

- Scratches
- Twisted ankles
- Sprained muscles
- Tweaked neck/back
- Broken bones

Body mechanics—Risk mitigation and PPE

- **Sturdy, close-toed shoes are required for all field work activities**
- Long pants/sleeves are suggested for all field work, and required for work involving minor equipment or power tools (mower, weed wacker)
- **Always be aware of your surroundings**
- Watch your footing! The field is full of uneven terrain
- Take frequent breaks during strenuous activities
- Never perform activities that are outside your physical capabilities (heavy lifting, strenuous use of body part with pre-existing known injury or weakness)

Bees, wasps, mosquitos, and snakes

- Mosquito repellent is provided in the garage
- RAID is provided in the garage and used to spray wasp nests
- Close-toed shoes are required at all times to prevent snake bites (and other things). Long pants are highly suggested

Bees & wasps

We have a lot of bees and wasps at the field!

If you are allergic to bee stings, it is critical that you tell your supervisor and your coworkers before beginning work

If you carry an EpiPen, make sure ALL coworkers know its precise location **at all times—every single day**

Severe allergy attack / anaphylactic shock

You'll experience symptoms of anaphylaxis before anaphylactic shock sets in. These symptoms shouldn't be ignored.

- Skin reaction / Hives
- Difficulty swallowing
- Swollen tongue or lips
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- A weak and rapid pulse
- Tingling hands, feet, mouth, or scalp

Severe allergy attack / anaphylactic shock

Emergency procedure for anaphylactic shock:

- **Call 911 immediately**
- If you know the person carries an EpiPen, retrieve it. If they are unable to administer it themselves, read the instructions before use, and then administer it for them immediately
- If the person does not carry an EpiPen but fears they are having a severe allergic reaction, give them one Benadryl tablet, which can be found in the first aid kit in the van. If Benedryl is taken, medical attention must be sought.
- **EpiPens and Benedryl only buy you 15 minutes of time before the reaction comes back. If a severe allergic reaction occurs, the person MUST get to the hospital immediately—even if an EpiPen or Benadryl has been used.**

Poison Oak

We have poison oak at the field

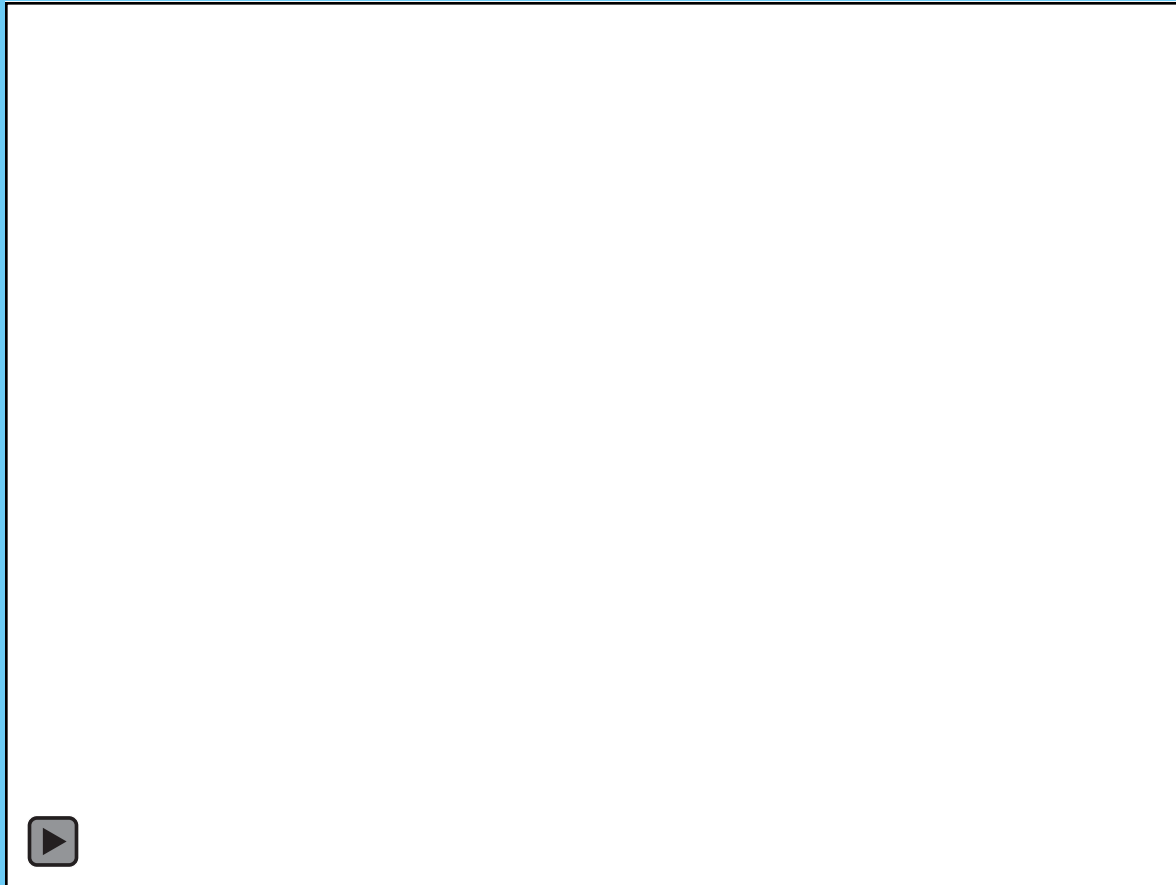
- Know how to identify poison oak
- Reactions vary from mild to severe
- Reactions can come on at any time in life— you may suddenly have a reaction even if you have never had one before
- Reaction severity can increase with repeating occurrences of exposure
- If you suspect you came into contact with poison oak, wash the area with Tecnu immediately. Tecnu can be found in the garage



Leaves of three, let it be!

Poison Oak

Video on poison oak:



Minor equipment and tools

Minor equipment: Weed wacker, standard personal lawn mower, power tools, 4wheeler, walkbehind brushcutter,

- **Make sure you are trained on equipment before use—make sure you are confident on how to operate and do not proceed if you are unsure or uncomfortable**
- Long pants and sturdy, close-toed shoes are required for operating all minor equipment
- Face shield & hearing protection is required for weed wacker
- Eye protection is required for power tools
- We can purchase PPE on your behalf to keep in your car
- **DO NOT GET COMPLACENT WHEN USING MINOR EQUIPMENT. MOST ACCIDENTS OCCUR WITH EXPERIENCED USERS.**

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Heavy equipment safety

Heavy equipment: Tractor mower, chainsaw

- Ear Pro
- Eye Pro
- Chaps
- Text every hour on the hour
- Training @ dropoff

Fire safety & Burn Piles

- <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/osu-fire-extinguisher-use>
- **Using fire safely for management of research and operations on college forests is essential. The following guidelines are required for all personnel involved with use of fire.**
- 1) Obtain a free non-recreation burn permit from the Benton county fire dept
- 2) To wear ankle-covering boots and closed toe shoes, and have directly adjacent to the site of the fire a means for extinguishing a fire that is spreading or burns on a human that is proportional to the size of the fire (e.g., a hose, nearby bucket/s of water, Pulaski, a fire extinguisher, a blanket)
- 3) At least 10 feet of non-flammable ground (e.g., mineral soil, wetted green vegetation)
- Someone present entire time

- 4) To burn only at times during burn days in the relevant area and land type. Please peruse these pages and follow the rules described:
<https://www.co.benton.or.us/planning/page/burn-tips>,
https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Documents/SMAC/Smoke%20brochure%20for%20public_2019.pdf, <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire/page/burning-regulations> and <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/Pages/Burning.aspx>
- 5) A plan for monitoring the burn to ensure it does not flare up and spread beyond expectation, with specific people and a reporting plan written down.
- 6) Field workers and students should use only supervisor approved burning methods that are safe and reliable, and the supervisor should be present the first time a burn is initiated. A written plan for use should be provided and approved by the supervisor before burning begins.