

# CAP LTER Field Safety Guidelines, Protocols, and Resources

## Version: February 2025

The CAP LTER safety committee, staff, faculty, and students, under the leadership of Kate Weiss (graduate student), Michele Clark (staff), and Quincy Stewart (staff) have put together a field safety plan template and pre-departure checklist that we strongly encourage all CAP researchers to integrate into their research plans, procedures, and protocols. A resource hub is also available that will be routinely updated and added to as we modify resources such as incident reporting procedures. The goal of these resources is to optimize field research safety for all CAP scientists, staff, and students.

- **Field Safety Plan Template**: A field safety plan should be a requirement for all CAP scientists and their affiliated projects. At some point soon, we are likely to require a field safety plan, with annual updates, for any CAP research group that wishes to use CAP vehicles, CAP field sites, or other CAP research resources.
- **Pre-departure Checklist**: The pre-departure checklist is analogous to a field equipment checklist. It provides an overview of all the safety conversations that are helpful to have with field workers prior to starting fieldwork.
- **Modes of Reporting**: The team working on these guidelines, protocols, and resources are working on implementing a mechanism for reporting field safety incidents that do not involve personal injury or damage to vehicles or equipment. These safety incidents include field sites where staff or students feel unsafe or have had adverse interactions with people or wildlife, as well as adverse interactions with other team members.
- **Resource Hub**: This will contain links to several field safety resources that are available to anyone associated with CAP. The safety committee and CAP staff will regularly update and add to this collection of resources, and it is recommended that CAP researchers routinely visit The Hub for new links, and particularly when initiating new students or staff to CAP-related field research.