



Mountaineering Scotland
Risk Assessment
Summer Hill Walking Activities

HAZARD	RISK	AT RISK Students (S) Instructors (I) Public (P)	PROBABILITY Low (L) Appreciable (A) High (H)	LEVEL Minor (M) Serious (S) Fatal (F)	MANAGEMENT	OK/AMEND
<i>Lack of communication in the event of an emergency</i>	<i>Delay in rescue</i>	<i>SIP</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>MSF</i>	<i>Instructor MUST carry a mobile phone & the phone must be registered for the Emergency SMS texting service. For those staff in full time MS employment (MSA & St John MSI) a Personal Locator Beacon should be carried.</i>	
<i>Over-reliance on modern technology for the purpose of navigation</i>	<i>Malfunction in modern technology</i>	<i>SI</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>MSF</i>	<i>All instructors employed on the mountain safety programme should understand that modern technology (GPS/phone/altimeter) are useful tools of the trade but should always be underpinned with traditional map & compass skills. This philosophy should also be taught to all students attending MS courses.</i>	



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<i>Weather</i>	<i>Risk of Hypothermia, particularly if delayed/lost due to poor weather and/or cloud (inc. high winds). Heat exhaustion; sunstroke; sunburn in warm conditions. Injury due to lightning strike. Injury due to slips/falls occasioned by wet rocks/grass.</i>	<i>S I</i>	<i>L L L L</i>	<i>MSF MSF MSF MSF</i>	<i>Specialist mountain weather forecasts consulted where available. Local weather reports obtained where available. PPE appropriate to weather conditions carried by students and instructors. Instructors trained, experienced, hold the appropriate qualification/insurance in navigation, weather signs and first aid.</i>
<i>Steep, broken terrain, slippery rock or grass, muddy or loose paths</i>	<i>Possibility of injury due to slips, stumbles or falls in ascent/descent. Risk of injury due to stone fall, either natural or caused by participants or other walkers/cyclists.</i>	<i>S I P</i>	<i>A L L</i>	<i>MSF MSF MSF</i>	<i>Route chosen is appropriate to students' abilities, equipment and prevailing conditions. Students are supervised as appropriate to their abilities and prevailing conditions. Instructors are suitably trained, experienced, qualified and insured. The element of risk is understood and accepted by all.</i>
<i>Water hazards such as burns, rivers, snow bridges and marshy ground</i>	<i>Burns/rivers in spate may result in lengthy detours leading to risk of exhaustion and hypothermia in students. Possibility of slipping or falling into water resulting in immersion hypothermia. Risk of drowning. Risk of physical trauma.</i>	<i>S I</i>	<i>L L L L</i>	<i>MSF MSF MSF MSF</i>	<i>Specialist mountain weather forecasts consulted where available. Local weather reports obtained where available. Instructors take into account implications of burns/rivers in spate on route choice; are conversant with weather signs; are trained and experienced in river crossing techniques and procedures. Students receive appropriate instruction and supervision in river crossing techniques.</i>



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<i>Lyme's Disease</i>	<i>Risk of contracting Lyme's Disease from a tick bite.</i>	<i>S I</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>MSF</i>	<i>Ensure that all participants are aware of the signs & symptoms of Lyme's Disease. Advise on suitable clothing in tick habitat. Advise on checking for ticks & appropriate removal techniques if one found. Carry a 'tick removing hook' in first aid kit.</i>	
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