

Waskahegan Trail Association Maintenance Crew Leader's Safety Plan for the 2020 Field Season

The Waskahegan Trail Association is dedicated to protecting the safety of its maintenance workers. Our areas of concern are outlined as follows:

- Injuries associated with routine maintenance tasks.
- Adverse health effects associated with exposure to the natural environment.
- Worked getting lost on the trail.
- Exposure of workers to 2019-nCoV coronavirus.

Here is our plan for keeping our workers safe:

Preventing and treating injuries:

Our workers are insured by the Workers Compensation Board of Alberta. Our policy number is:

We have prepared formal hazard assessment and mitigation protocols for each task our workers perform in the field: chainsaw, mower, weed whipper, clipper, signer, installation of stiles and boardwalks. Inexperienced workers are always instructed and supervised by the most experienced workers.

PPE such as ear protection, eye protection, work gloves, helmets, and safety chaps are provided to the crew and are mandatory when appropriate to the task being performed.

Two of our crew members with the best attendance records are certified in First Aid. We carry several first aid kits with us into the field.

We use the buddy system. Workers are assigned to work in pairs or triplets so that no one is ever alone and without immediate help in the field.

We carry our cell phones, gps and maps so that we can call for assistance and evacuate efficiently in case of emergency. If there is no cell service, we are aware of the location of the nearest house.

Our tools are sharpened and maintained on a regular schedule.

Preventing environmental exposure issues:

All workers are expected to provide their own sun protection, insect repellent, and carry sufficient drinking water and food.

Preventing crew members from getting lost:

As noted above, we use the buddy system, maps, cell phones and gps to keep everyone on the trail and in communication with others. A weekly written work plan is distributed to crew members in advance so that they are aware of the location of muster points for starting and ending the work day.

Preventing exposure to 2019-nCoV coronavirus:

We have prepared a detailed plan that minimizes the potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. Briefly, we have eliminated or minimized sharing of equipment and PPE. The size of the crew is limited to 15, and carpools are restricted to 2 people with masks. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and masks are provided to the crew. The crew is presented with a checklist to assess their health prior to joining each work party, and reminded to stay home if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.