



SCOUTS[®]
South Africa

Regional Hiking Emergency Procedure

Revision Date: 2014/10/06

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Preamble

The Scout Movement is by its very nature an outdoor and adventure organisation and Scouters are encouraged to provide challenging and adventurous activities bearing in mind the capabilities of the participants.

Across many weekends and holidays in the year –somewhere in the country, Cubs, Scouts or Rovers will be participating in day or overnight hikes during which possible incidents may occur. As a responsible organisation, SCOUTS South Africa is committed to ensuring that its members are protected as far as possible and have produced a regional hiking emergency procedure that can be used within the regions.

Regional Hiking Emergency Procedures Document

Please find the latest SSA Regional Hiking Emergency Procedure document at www.scouts.org.za/scouts/tbc.

Emergency Procedure for Incidents on Scout Hikes for the "Contact" Person

The "Contact", is the person who is named on the Outdoor Activity application form, who is not on the hike and who is aware of the details of the route being undertaken by the Scouts.

The only emergency procedure to be used for any incident on all Scout hikes – be it an overdue party (over 2 hours late with no sign of the party), injured person, help required to evacuate a hiking party or any other problem – is as follows:

The Regional Hike Advisor must be contacted immediately by the "Contact" person. The contact details, and deputies (in order of priority should the senior Regional Hike Advisor be unavailable) are as follows:

1. Regional Hike Advisor – *Name and Cell*
2. *At least 3 other senior commissioners with appropriate knowledge and experience*

They will then advise you as to what you should do. Have all the information pertaining to the hike ready, with regard to routes, leader, number in the party, ages of those in the hiking party, etc. All the numbers are available 24 hours per day.

Detailed information about the incident should be provided as soon as possible to the Regional Commissioner and Regional Team Co-Ordinator Scout Programme

Under no circumstances should Parents, Scouts or Scouters:

- Organize or initiate any rescues or searches without permission from the Regional Hike Advisor. If there are any costs incurred by such action, you will be personally and financially liable. (An Oryx helicopter costs in excess of R58 000 per hour to operate, the average minimum operation is 1½ hours!).
- Report incidents to the Police, Metro, etc.
- Make statements to the press or other media.

After discussing and executing instructions from the Regional Hike Advisor, it is only courteous to inform your District Commissioner and Scout Group Leader of the situation.

Following all emergency procedures a debriefing meeting with the hiking party and Scouter will be arranged as a matter of course. This will be co-ordinated by the Regional Hike Advisor to ensure that any inadequacies in procedures or problems can be addressed for the future safety of Scouts.

SUGGESTED ROLE OF REGIONAL HIKE ADVISER

Be an active participator in hiking and similar activities

Preferably a member of MCSA or similar organization as this facilitates good communications

Have a good knowledge of hiking routes in the Region and open new routes

Develop good working relationships with Hiking Advisers in other Regions and exchange route information etc.

Recruit a team of active assistants and a search and rescue team if possible

Maintain up to date information for contacting emergency services such as MCSA Rescue section, Police, Ambulance

Set up procedures for reporting and controlling incidents involving SCOUTS IN the Region

Understand the need to minimise adverse publicity of incidents

Revision Approval

This revision of the Regional Hiking Emergency procedure was approved for publication by the Scout Youth Programme Committee

Amendment Submission Contact Details

While every attempt is made to ensure that the contents of this procedure are correct and consistent at the time of publication, the changing nature of SSA and the communities that we serve is acknowledged, and as living documents this Procedure should and will require correction and amendment from time to time.

Any proposals for amendment of the contents of this procedure should be submitted in line with the process described in the standing Organisation Rules in effect at the time of submission of the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendments for this document should be submitted to:

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