

# INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

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Adverse weather conditions refer to unfavourable or potentially harmful weather conditions that present an increased risk to safety and health.

To prepare effectively for dealing with any potentially adverse weather conditions it is necessary to consider the specific risks associated with the activity offered and the facilities/location where the activity will take place. In order to identify, analyse and assess the threats and risks that weather conditions would pose to the activity, you should conduct a risk assessment. The risk assessment will help you determine the measures needed to mitigate, eliminate or reduce any weather associated risks. (Please refer to the article on Risk Assessments to know more).

The education and training of staff is also highly important to ensure quality.

Regardless of the type of activity, you should consider the following points:

- Do you have a contingency plan that has specific instructions on how to act in the event of weather conditions affecting the activity?
- Are there alternative routes that you could take to avoid adverse weather conditions?
- Are guides and participants provided with suitable equipment?
- Is there sufficient safety equipment for the entire group?
- Are any vehicles used fitted with the appropriate equipment (two-way radio, thermal protective aid, emergency flares etc.)?
- Do participants know what to do if they lose contact with the group?
- Are guides familiar with road conditions and weather forecast?
- Are guides familiar with the activity/route?
- Have you taken into account the effects that weather can have on participants (from sunburn to slips on ice)?
- Have you considered potential dangers from the perspective of the novice?
- Have you reviewed the key issues which arose during previous adverse weather events that affected the activity?

Remember that the day where the activity will take place, weather forecasts should be monitored before the activity starts, and during, if possible, to try to avoid any surprises. Local conditions must be assessed on each occasion from a safety point of view and there should be clear guidelines on how to respond to an incident. Ensure all guides and participants are aware of the hazards and risk associated with adverse weather conditions and precautions that they should take during these periods. Participants must be clearly informed of what is required from them.