

Health and safety plan for volunteers undertaking possum shooting

This plan has been developed for volunteer workers to help protect against hazards associated with possum shooting. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group (OPBG) will make every effort to enable their members, participants, members of the public and people in the vicinity to return home safely each day. As a volunteer worker, you are responsible for taking all practicable steps to ensure your own safety and that of others associated with your work, such as homeowners and their families.

Hazards and their management

Three main categories of hazard are considered in this safety plan:

1. Environment: may include the terrain, water bodies (e.g. streams), weather conditions, fire and vegetation.
2. Resources and equipment: may include the use of traps, firearms and vehicles.
3. People: may include failure to follow instructions, undisclosed or unrecognized medical conditions, wearing clothing that is inadequate for the conditions, and inadequate fitness or agility for the task being performed. Account also needs to be taken of risks to residents and pets on a property.

The attached Hazard Identification Form lists the hazards that have been identified by OPBG in each of these categories and the actions that should be taken to eliminate or minimise each hazard. In most cases the actions listed are intended to minimise the hazard involved.

Safety briefing

Before starting work you will be given a safety briefing by the team leader (Trustee, Project Manager, Operations Manager, Volunteer Coordinator or other designated person). The briefing will identify the significant hazards and the control measures intended to eliminate or minimize them. In all cases you are expected to follow the reasonable directions of the team leader.

If you will be working alone you will be expected to act as the team leader by identifying the significant hazards and the control measures you will take to eliminate or minimize them.

As a volunteer, you are required to complete a Personal Details Form before undertaking any work for OPBG. In this form you acknowledge that you have received training for the activity that you are volunteering for.

In the event of an incident

- Stay calm, think things through before acting
- Call out, ask for assistance from residents or neighbours
- Assess the situation, ensure the scene is safe for you and others, check for potential hazards
- Reassure the injured person, administer first aid
- Call for medical assistance

Other persons assisting you

As a volunteer you are obliged to brief anyone accompanying you on the Health and Safety Plan for this work; for example, advice on suitable clothing and footwear, identification of the hazards and actions that should be taken to reduce the risks associated with each hazard.

Incident/near-miss reporting

Report all incidents involving injury and near-miss incidents to the team leader coordinating your work. The information you report will assist the OPBG in identifying a safety problem and how it might be addressed, both for your safety and the safety of others.

Feedback on this safety plan

Any comments you have on this plan, including changes to suggested control measures or the identification of additional hazards, will be welcomed and will help OPBG to improve its safety planning. Please provide feedback to the team leader coordinating your work or any of the following safety contacts.

Contacts

Team Leader	
Name	Bruce Kyle, Operations Manager
Phone	027 438 76178
Trustees, Health and safety	
Name	David Chalmers, Trustee
Phone	027 248 1970
Name	Bev Dickson, Trustee
Phone	03 478 0670

Adopted by the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Board: 17/8/16

Annual Review approved by the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Board: 15/11/17

OPBG Hazard Identification Form			Activity: Possum shooting
Responsibility: Operations Manager <i>Bruce Kyle</i>			Review period: Annually
Hazard	Significant Y/N	Action E/M	Actions
Environment			
Steep terrain	Y	E	Avoid if possible
Slippery surfaces	Y	M	Wear suitable footwear; assess safety; move with care
Obstructions, holes, unstable or stinging vegetation, water bodies	Y	M	Be observant, move with care Wear protective clothing and safety glasses if advised
Deterioration in weather	N	M	Check the forecast and try to do the work before bad weather; wear appropriate clothing
Dogs	Y	M	Avoid areas where aggressive dogs are known to reside. The following website has good information to prepare yourself in case you find yourself in threatening situation with a dog http://www.dogsafety.govt.nz/Grownups-Dealing-with-Dogs-Reading-Dog-Behaviour
Night shooting	Y	M	OPBG Night Shooting SOP must be read before undertaking night shooting.
Equipment			
Carrying firearms	Y	M	When in transit in a vehicle, carry the firearm unloaded (unable to fire) in a case or gun slip in the cab of the vehicle, or preferably in a locked container Unload the firearm whenever there is a person in front of the shooter (e.g. opening gates or retrieving kill)
Using firearms	Y	M	All persons in possession of firearms must hold a Firearms Licence Firearms should be in a good, well-maintained condition, using high quality ammunition Permission should be gained from property owners for the use of firearms and information sought on particular hazards in the area in which they are to be used Wear appropriate clothing for conditions; trigger finger should not be gloved Correct, unimpaired visual aids (glasses, contact lenses) must be worn if appropriate Alcohol and drugs must not be consumed in the 12 hours prior to using firearms or during firearm use Always be aware of target's background Wear Hi Viz and reflective clothing Use ear plugs or ear defenders
Removal of possum carcass from cage trap	Y	M	Wear gloves; dispose of or wash after use Have plastic bags for disposing of carcasses
People			
Medical conditions	Y	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete personal details form and give to OPBG coordinator Carry identification card listing:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name ○ Date of birth ○ Address ○ In Case of Emergency (ICE) phone number ○ Next of Kin ○ Relevant medical conditions ○ Relevant medicines ○ Allergies (e.g. bee stings, drugs) <p>Have an emergency strategy</p>
Working alone	Y	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise responsible person of intentions (e.g. location, route, completion time and who to contact if you fail to return) before setting out • Stick to intentions • Advise responsible person when you return • Carry mobile phone and/or PLB <p>Carry personal first-aid kit</p>
Lack of fitness/agility	Y	M	Work within personal limits
Communication with Property owner	Y	M	Explain procedure for possum shooting, obtain written approval for shooting possums on their property.
		Key: E=Eliminate M=Minimise	

* All workers have the right to remove themselves from any situations that they consider unsafe.

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group

'Volunteers undertaking Possum Shooting' Health and Safety Plan

Training Record - to be signed and returned to your team leader.

I _____ have read and understand the 'Volunteers undertaking Possum Shooting' health and safety plan provided by OPBG and confirm that I have been given appropriate training for my voluntary work.

Please sign below:

Signature	Date
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Trained by:

Signature	Date
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