

Unit 7 – Critical incident management

In co-operation with Bayside Bushwalking Club

Hopefully you will never have to undertake emergency procedures but you need to be prepared if a sudden emergency occurs.

7.1 Before the walk you should establish:

- Any qualified first aiders?
- Any walkers with a medical condition eg diabetes, asthma, allergic reaction necessitating epipen?
- Who has mobile phone / GPS/ PLB? (if required)
- Local police contact phone

On the walk you must carry the club booking form listing all the participants and temporary members personal details and emergency contact information.

Other preparations (more long term)

- Ambulance Victoria has a community program (DVD plus instruction kit) “4 Steps for life” which trains groups in basic CPR. Ambulance Victoria believes that some CPR is better than no CPR
- www.quota.org For a donation Quota supplies groups with personal emergency first aid forms in a small plastic pouch
- Setopress bandage = for snakebite. Recommended for all bushwalks.
- First aid course – Many available eg St Johns, Red Cross, Premium health. BWV gives a rebate for successfully completing a course. Clubs may be able to run a group with a course provider.

7.2 Common Incidents:

The Bushwalking Victoria booklet Walksafe has excellent strategies for dealing with most common Incidents. These include:

Blisters; bites; snakebite

stings; strains and sprains; cramp;

minor burns;

lost / separated; extreme heat; extreme cold; and severe weather

Assess the situation calmly and render appropriate first aid as required

7.3 Major Accident/Incident:

The leader has to manage the accident/ incident when it happens and until Emergency Services arrive.

7.3.1: Delegate Tasks:

No leader can do everything. Instruct walkers to carry out designated tasks. These include:

Provide first aid by using the first aider's check list **D R S A B C D**:

D - danger. Ensure safety of all walkers before checking casualty

R – response - Check for any response from casualty.

S - IF NO RESPONSE – SEND FOR HELP.

A – clear airway

B – breathing

C - circulation

D – Defibrillator / deadly bleeding;

7.3.2: Contact emergency services – how depends on mobile coverage. Have your exact location details ready; In remote location the advice is to ask for police

If it is necessary to walk out to contact the Emergency Services, a small group should go carrying written location details;

Treat casualty and other walkers for signs of shock;

Document times and tasks for Emergency Services and incident report;

Contact the duty Club Emergency Contact to advise of late return.

7.4 Death on a Walk: Protocols to Follow:

7.4.1: At the Scene:

Protect the body of a dead person. Cover the body to protect it from the elements and animals;

Record accurate information about the incident. All walkers should attempt to do this in case it is required as police evidence or for the Coroner's court;

Liaise with emergency personnel. The leader should brief the incident controller (usually a police officer) who will supervise and direct all activities at the scene.

Deal with media: it is unlikely that the media will arrive before the police but if this happens only the leader should speak. Give basic facts only, and avoid any speculation.

7.4.2 The DO NOT DO List:

Do not notify next of kin of a death – the Police will do this;

Do not use social media, smart phones or text messages to inform others about an incident until advised that this is appropriate;

Do not move a body unless it is necessary to secure it against tides, currents, gravity or animals and it is safe to do so;

Do not admit to any liability, negligence or culpability. This is a condition of the insurance policy. If concerned about legal issues seek legal advice;

Do not tell the media where a body is, or assist them to go into the area.

7.5 After the Incident:

The Club President should deal with any ongoing media attention and liaise with next of kin so their privacy and wishes are respected;

The leader should provide accurate information to the Club President on return home and then to the Club Committee by completing an incident report form;

The Club Committee should advise other Club members who were not involved. The Committee should decide on the method of informing members after having consulted with, and sought permission from, next of kin;

Club President should advise BWV President. If the incident is reported in the media the BWV President should be fully informed immediately after the incident;

Club President should advise BWV Insurers and Insurance convenor. BWV insurance policies require that an Incident Report must be sent to the insurers and a copy sent to the BWV insurance convenor;

If required the Club President should arrange a debriefing and/or counselling session with those on the walk. Remember that the best sources of support are friends and family;

The Club Committee should refer members to the excellent list on the Bushwalking Victoria website of organisations which provide counselling and assistance

(www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au>what we do>Policies>Guidelines>Critical Incident and Recovery Guidelines).