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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Hazards** | **Severity** | **Probability** | **Risk** | **Action to reduce risk** |
| **Working in the countryside** | Danger of injury or of illness through contact with animals | 4 | 1 | 4 | * Identify potential hazards during day * Talk to landowners about location of potentially hazardous animals * Avoid contact with animals and dung * If walking in close proximity to long grass/bracken - check exposed parts of body for ticks. If a tick is found and you contract flu like symptoms - inform your doctor that you may have been exposed to Lyme’s disease. * Do not handle bats on any survey (there should be no need to do this). |
| Inclement weather | 2 | 3 | 6 | * Be aware that hazards may increase with rain, strong wind, thunderstorms. * Avoid /terminate outdoor activity in poor weather. You are requested not to survey in heavy rain/storms or high winds or at temperatures lower than 7°c. |
| **Remote working** | Danger of injury through accident | 4 | 2 | 8 | * Contact relevant landowners/water bailiffs before carrying out survey/walk * Avoid well-known danger spots including urban areas. Do not cross railway lines, or other potential hazardous sites e.g. quarries, ravines. * Notify someone of destination (grid reference of site) Have unambiguous contingency procedure if no contact within anticipated time of return * Wear clothing/footwear appropriate to the location/terrain, carry torch and spare batteries & bulbs, compass and survival bag/warm clothing |
| Physical attack | 4 | 1 | 4 | * Take fully charged mobile phone for use in emergency * Carry personal alarm in urbanised areas |
| Getting lost | 1 | 3 | 3 | * Identify/locate nearest phone box during daytime * Do not survey alone |
| **Working at night** | Slips, trips, falls e.g. climbing fences/ stiles/obstacles, falling into holes | 2 | 3 | 4 | * Identify potential hazards in daytime and avoid during night * Use head torch and pocket notepad to keep hands free if recording observations * Be extra vigilant at night and wear reflector jacket when walking on roads * Ensure tetanus is up to date |
|  | Getting lost | 1 | 3 | 3 | * Use map and compass/GPS and walk route in daylight in advance |
| **Working by steep banks** | Danger of injury by falling on land or near water | 3  3 | 3  4 | 9  12 | * If next to water - avoid activity * Keep at safe distance from bank/cliff/water edge * Identify potential hazards during day and avoid these areas at night * Wear footwear appropriate for the location/terrain and weather conditions |
| **Working by water** | Risk of drowning | 4 | 2 | 8 | * Non-swimmers should always be accompanied when walking by water * Do not cross rivers unless by bridge * Avoid work when risk of flooding and be aware of tides |
|  | Risk of waterborne diseases, especially Weil's disease | 4 | 1 | 4 | * Avoid contact with water especially if cut or grazed * If contact with water made - wash affected area. If you contract flu like symptoms, inform your doctor that you may have been exposed to Weil’s disease. |

**How risk is evaluated**

The aim of this risk assessment is to help you improve your own personal safety while carrying out surveys of bats in the field.

In everyday life all activity involves hazards - but the activity may not be risky. Being hit by a car while crossing the road is a potentially severe hazard - but the probability of it occurring is low - hence the risk that you will be harmed in that way is also low. The table lists possible hazards associated with various activities and the risk that these hazards pose to you has been evaluated - where Risk = Hazard Severity x Probability of Occurrence (see codes below).

**Risk**

Risks are categorised as follows:

1-6 = Acceptable (Low) 8-10 = Broadly acceptable (Medium) 12 - 16 = Not acceptable (High).

We recommend that you do not carry out any activity in the 'not acceptable' category – e.g. walking along steep banks next to water.

**Hazard severity codes**

1 = No injury

2 = Minor injury (professional medical attention is not required)

3 = Major injury / permanent disability

4 = Fatality

**Probability of occurrence codes**

1 = Very improbable

2 = Remote

3 = Could possibly occur at some point in the medium to long term

4 = Probable. The chances are that someone will suffer injury in the short to medium term.

5 = Likely. It is predictable that someone will be injured.

**Summary advice**: Never survey alone - Take a friend with you! Don’t take any unnecessary risks and if in doubt don’t do it.