



Health and Safety Policy

Statement of Intent

The United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) is committed to achieving the highest possible standards of health, safety and welfare through the effective control of risk; whilst ensuring effective education and learning in a realistic competition environment to drive excellence and continual improvement throughout the Emergency Rescue Services within the United Kingdom.



The UKRO Trustees are committed to ensuring, as far as is reasonably practicable, the Health, Safety and Welfare of all volunteers and any others who may be affected by our activities.

UKRO will strive to develop awareness of the factors that contribute to a safer environment and support systems that maintain volunteer wellbeing.

Our commitment is demonstrated by our support of health and safety management arrangements and their practical application during the challenge events and through our educational work.

We are committed to pursuing and achieving progressive continual improvements in our Health and Safety performance.

Authorised by: Guy Goodman

Approved by the Trustees on 22 July 2023



Health and Safety Policy

Health & Safety Aims and Objectives

1. Our aim is to have the arrangements in place, and the competence to deliver them, so that as an organisation the UKRO will always:
 - comply with the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and all other relevant statutory provisions, including health and safety approved codes of practice, guidance and relevant fire safety legislation. Treating these legal obligations only as minimum requirements we will strive for higher standards where possible.
 - effectively identify all significant hazards arising from activities, locations, equipment, substances, and people to assess all the significant risks to the health and safety of volunteers and others, and to develop the appropriate preventive and protective measures necessary to control these risks.
 - effectively plan, organise, implement, control, monitor and review the preventive and protective measures.
 - establish, and where necessary implement, appropriate emergency procedures to be followed in situations of serious and imminent danger. In this respect to co-operate and co-ordinate with other relevant stakeholders/competition host.
 - provide and maintain suitable and safe vehicles, plant, equipment, and systems of work.
 - provide volunteers with adequate health and safety training and supervision, taking account of capabilities as regards health and safety matters when assigning tasks to them.
 - provide volunteers with comprehensible information on health and safety risks identified by assessments and on the preventive and protective measures necessary to control these risks.
 - avoid safety, health, and fire risks in connection with the use, handling and storage of articles and substances.
 - provide a safe place for activity participation and a healthy environment.

2. To support this, the UKRO have established the following health and safety commitments:
 - effectively engage with challenge host organisations to ensure suitable arrangements are in place to support the management of health and safety. This includes engaging with the host Service early on to ensure that all practical arrangements are in place prior to the start of the competition.
 - ensure the health and safety of the competition participants and UKRO volunteers, whilst actively participating within competition areas.



Health and Safety Policy

- inform the participants of their own responsibilities when participating during the challenge.
- ensure suitable supervision during the event, to promote and monitor safe practices.
- lead the advancement of technical rescue practices, ensuring a safer environment for challenge participants.

These commitments have been established and approved by the UKRO's Trustees.

The commitments will be reviewed annually or more frequently should the need arise. It is the responsibility of the UKRO discipline leads to ensure all volunteers contribute towards the attainment of these commitments.

Responsibilities

1. The Director of Corporate Services:

- has overall responsibility for managing the implementation of this policy and is committed to the principle that the legal requirement is the minimal level of achievement.
- shall appoint a Health and Safety Lead and Health and Safety team to assist with the practical application of health and safety requirements.

2. All Directors:

- will assume responsibility for all matters relating to Health and Safety appropriate to their respective functions.
- will co-ordinate with the Director of Corporate Services and the Health and Safety Lead.

3. Health and Safety Lead:

- will have health and safety knowledge and experience. They are responsible for advising the Director of Corporate Services on all matters relating to Health and Safety in relation to the Challenge event.
- will work with the Director of Corporate Services to formulate, develop, and ensure the implementation of this policy.
- together with the Director of Corporate Services, they will ensure that systems are in place so that all volunteers are aware of and understand the Health and Safety Policy and its practical application at the Challenge event.

4. Discipline Leads:

- will provide effective management and leadership of health and safety and are responsible for supporting their teams in ensuring that risk assessments are in place, and safe systems of work are available for all activities within their area, and that these are implemented and checked.
- will be responsible for ensuring that there is a general awareness of health and safety and appreciate the role that the UKRO has in effective learning and education.

5. All UKRO participants and volunteers:

- have the responsibility to ensure that they perform activities safely and that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect others or the environment.



Health and Safety Policy

Arrangements for Managing Health & Safety

1. Through effective health and safety management systems, the UKRO are committed to pursuing and achieving progressive continual improvements in its health and safety performance and will seek expert advice to ensure best practice.
2. The Host will have access to a Challenge Handbook. This will contain details the Host requires in relation to resources and actions required. The handbook will be reviewed after each Challenge, and no later than prior to the next Challenge.
3. Basic health and safety requirements are detailed in the pre-competition information available to all participants
4. Assurance meetings will be organised by the Director of Corporate Services, to include representatives of the UKRO, including discipline leads, and Health and Safety, and representatives of the Host Service. Where possible. the first being no later than eight months prior to the Challenge event.
5. Live documents will be in place and managed by the Health and Safety team for each competition. These documents will be developed by the UKRO H&S team, along with the Host and the Challenge leads.

These documents will include:

- Generic risk assessments for each discipline
 - Pre-scenario checklists for each discipline
 - First Aid arrangements for the event
 - Incident reporting
 - Safety Briefs/Instructions
 - Pre and Post Challenge Event safety checks
 - Any specific safety arrangements during the competition
6. Fundamental to health and safety are lessons Learned from previous Challenge events. Any lessons learnt at the previous Challenge will be incorporated into the arrangements where appropriate.