Bat – Risk Management for Emergent Counts

**Duty of Care**

HRC has duty of care

Chances of Risk: Unlikely

Risk assessment without controls: Minor

Strategy: Designate a leader
Carry or have reasonable access to a First Aid Kit
Gather emergency contact information where possible
Bring along a cell phone for emergencies
Know the location of the nearest emergency room or hospital

Risk assessment with controls: Minor

**Weather and Environment**

Chances of Risk: Possible

Risk assessment without controls: Moderate

Strategy: Sun is not an issues since this is done near sunset – however, people can be surprised by temperature changes. Make sure you are prepared for continuing heat or possible drops in temperature.

 Always carry phone in case of emergencies

 Pack water – Evenings can be extremely hot, as well

Monitor changing weather conditions, stay vigilant, be ready to cancel if conditions become challenging/potentially dangerous

Pay attention to route as you are going in before dark, but will be exiting after dark

Risk assessment without controls: Minor

**Contact with the Public:**

Chances of Risk: Possible

Risk assessment without controls: Minor

Strategy: You may encounter the public while monitoring

Wear your nametag or badge that identifies you as a Historic Rivers Chapter Virginia Master Naturalist

Practice good etiquette and behavior

Risk assessment with controls: Minor

**Contact with plants and wildlife**

Chances of Risk: Unlikely

Risk assessment without controls: Minor

Strategy: Most likely to be around houses, so not anticipating problems with plants and wildlife

 Be aware of your surroundings

 Biting insects are more common after dark. Use repellent, but only if you find it necessary

 It is unlikely that you will come in contact with a bat, but under NO circumstances ever touch a bat – even if it is deceased.

Risk assessment with controls: Minor

**Field Etiquette, Rules and Laws**

Chance of risk: Unlikely

Risk assessment without controls -- moderate

Strategy: Practice good field etiquette

 Be aware of private/public lands – do not trespass

Risk assessment with controls – minor

**Information, protocols, and scientific integrity:**

Chance of risk: Possible

Risk assessment without controls – moderate

Strategy: Attend training

 Log data in the field – two clickers may be helpful (one for emerging and one for returning bats)

 Work in teams of at least 2

Risk assessment with controls – Minor

**Tools and equipment:**

Chance of Risk: Possible

Risk assessment without controls – moderate

Strategy: Dress appropriately

 Bring clickers

 Bring equipment to log data

 Always bring a flashlight – you will be returning after dark

 Bring extra batteries

 At least one person in the group should have a 1st aid kit

Risk assessment with controls – minor

**Human Factors**

Chance of Risk: Possible

Risk assessment without controls – moderate

Strategy: Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return

 Be prepared for the weather

 Work in groups of 2 or more

 Make sure everyone has your emergency contact information and that you are carrying appropriate emergency contact numbers

 Carry a charged cell phone

 Hydrate

 Pack snacks

 Know when to stop if you cannot safely continue

 Check for ticks when you return to a lighted area

Risk of assessment with controls – Minor

**Chapter and volunteer management**

Chance of Risk: Unlikely

Risk assessment without controls – Minor

Strategies: Have approved Volunteer Service Project Proposal form on file

 Provide training

 Have volunteers know risks

Risk assessment with controls – Minor

**Social Media**

Chance of Risk: Unlikely

Risk assessment without controls – Minor

Strategies: Know if volunteer does not want photo taken and respect wishes

Risk assessment without controls – Minor

**Other hazards/Risks:**

Chance of Risk:

Risk assessment without controls –

Strategies: