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Kia ora koutou

The changes to the Adventure Activity regulations have been in effect since 1 April. Undoubtedly, there are varied perspectives on the implementation of these changes, particularly regarding the management of natural hazards. While we await guidance from WorkSafe on how to navigate these changes, it's crucial to remember that we've been managing natural hazards effectively for a long time, accumulating valuable experience on how they impact our operations.

Those drafting the guidelines for implementing the regulations are often distant from the field, and they rely on our input to ensure that the standards are practical and achievable for businesses of all sizes. Please stay vigilant for the draft guidelines and submit feedback, considering the diversity of those working in the sector. In the meantime, valuable insights can be gained from a [webinar hosted by Sam Newton](#). TIA ran a webinar featuring legal advice from Lane Neave which you can [watch here](#).

We have heard from Worksafe that the draft Natural Hazard guidance documents are being released for feedback soon. The ASG review will begin in the near future too.

If you have any questions or need a sounding board for ideas, feel free to reach out to me at outdoors@nzrecreation.org.nz or megan.williams@tia.org.nz

Take care out there,

Kia pai tō rā,

Kieran Mckay

Outdoor Programme Manager

Recreation Aotearoa

Megan Williams,

Sustainability & Member Advocate

Changes to Adventure Activities Regulations

If you're involved in Adventure Activities – either as an operator or a client – changes came into effect on 1 April this year.

These changes include:

- Updates to the registration process, with applicants now applying directly to the Registrar of Adventure Activities (WorkSafe) for registration, and renewal of registration, after completing safety audit requirements.
- Requirements for operators to take reasonable steps to inform participants about risks involved in adventure activities.
- Enhanced powers for WorkSafe to suspend (including immediately), cancel and refuse registration, and impose safety conditions on an operator in the interests of safety.
- Introduction of new notifiable incidents, including those related to natural hazards, which operators must report to WorkSafe.

Key changes in the Safety Audit Standard include:

- Specific requirements regarding natural hazard management in risk planning.
- Clear policies for determining when to suspend activities.
- Enhanced requirements for technical advisors, particularly regarding natural hazards.

Why the changes?

These changes stem from an improvement plan aimed at strengthening adventure activities regulation following the Whakaari White Island tragedy in 2019. Ultimately, they aim to enhance health and safety outcomes for participants and workers in adventure activities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

More information

- [Changes to the Adventure Activities regime – what they mean for you](#)
- [Read a summary created by TIA](#) on the changes.
- [Improvements to WorkSafe's adventure activities regulatory function](#)

Update from Qualworx



Kia ora,

Qualworx suggests adopting a risk assessment-based approach to natural hazards – similar to the process for drugs and alcohol. This involves evaluating risks to individuals and organisations to determine appropriate control measures based on risk levels (Low, Medium, and High).

WorkSafe's Good Practice document, expected in June/July, will provide further guidance. In the interim, consider the broader context of your operation, including factors like climate change and local weather events, when assessing risks. Depending on the severity of identified risks (i.e. High risk), seeking technical advice from a qualified individual or organisation may be necessary.

In assessing risks, the classic "who, what, how, why, and when" framework can be beneficial in identifying natural hazards relevant to your activities. Having contingency plans in place is essential, considering how specific hazards may require dynamic adjustments.

These are just some ideas to support those grappling with this area. If you're seeking a starting point, hazard and risk assessment is key.

Ngā mihi

David Watkins

Qualworx

Update from Adventure Mark



Kia ora,

Hopefully, all the Adventure Activities Operators around the country have by now reviewed their Safety Management Systems against the updated [Adventure Activities Regulations](#) and [Safety Management System requirements for Adventure Activity Operators](#).

It's important to remember that these came into effect on 1 April and all Adventure Activity Operators are now required to adhere to these rules. The date of your last audit, or your next audit, is irrelevant. Audits are just a check that you are doing what the rules require.

The assessments that we've done so far this month show us that most operators have already improved their online risk communication, making it clearer to any potential customers what sort of hazards might be encountered.

We understand that WorkSafe will release a draft Natural Hazard Good Practice Guide for

consultation sometime soon. We encourage operators and associations to review the draft guidelines carefully and provide constructive feedback to WorkSafe to ensure that the guidelines are workable. If Adventure Activity Operators don't contribute their time and expertise to the review process, the final version could likely be more difficult to meet, meaning operators do need to make more radical changes.

The Adventure Activities sector is small, so every contribution matters.

We've had a lot of calls and emails from operators and spoken with advocacy bodies about the changes. It's worth pointing out that Adventure Activity Operators have been assessing and managing natural hazards for a long time and doing it well. By the very nature of most activities, the natural hazards are what make them Adventure Activities. Operators can take confidence from this that there shouldn't be much additional work to meet the new requirements around natural hazards.

Ngā mihi,

Mike Penefather

Adventure Mark

If you thought your audit was expensive, think again!

Your adventure tourism operator audit might seem expensive, but the consequences of not having one can be catastrophic as discovered by Prestige Adventures Limited. It's time to regard your audit as part of your business insurance and an investment in your business rather than a pure cost.

David Greenslade ROSA member, AdventureMark auditor and technical expert for motorbike, ATV, and 4x4 adventure tourism audits explains. Click below to read more.

[Read more](#)

Recall Notice from Tru Blu

Please be aware of the recent recall notice for certain Tru Blu auto belay devices, which may be relevant to some SupportAdventure stakeholders.

Our understanding is that the manufacturer has already contacted operators directly, but if not, please get in touch for details.

Human Hazard Management Workshop

This two-day course following SHAC will be facilitated by Ken Wylie (IFMGA), Archetypal, in collaboration with the NZ Mountain Safety Council.

Venue: Lake Wānaka Centre

Date: 16 and 17 June, 2024

Cost: \$170 per person

Morning and afternoon tea will be provided for both days. Please supply your own lunch. Find out more details about the workshop, who it's intended for, and developmental outcomes by clicking below.

[More information](#)

Recreation Aotearoa Outdoor Hui

The next Hui will be in Nelson on Thursday 29 August. Come and catch up with local news. This is also a great opportunity to network with your peers in the Outdoors sector.

This event is FREE for Recreation Aotearoa members, and \$50+GST for non-members.

Speakers will include Recreation Aotearoa, Mountain safety council, NZOIA, EONZ plus local rangatahi.

[Register here](#)

Fatality Prevention Workshop Series

Fortunately, most outdoor educators will never encounter a fatality so cannot rely on personal experience to understand how fatalities might be prevented. When a death occurs, it is often assumed that it was due to a freak accident. However, analysis reveals that "few OE deaths prove to be caused by misfortune alone. Most involve failures to learn from the past" (Andrew Brookes). To learn from the past, we will review coroner's reports of previous fatalities that have occurred in New Zealand. The purpose of this workshop is to highlight how developing a Fatality Prevention Mindset is possible and will help you to become more competent in Fatality Prevention. Developing a Fatality Prevention Mindset requires us to look to the past with understanding and compassion, and to the future with rigour and vigilance.

The workshop is aimed at a wide range of people involved in the provision of outdoor education, from Board members to EOTC coordinators and instructional staff. This is because Fatality Prevention is best achieved by 'defence in depth' – it is a shared responsibility across an organisation. Find [more information here](#).

Upon completion of this workshop, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Fatality Prevention principles and how these apply in outdoor education contexts
2. Access and analyse case studies to identify measures to prevent an outdoor education fatality
3. Critically review an outdoor program, or a specific activity, and identify the level of alignment with Fatality Prevention principles

Dates:

- Hamilton - 26th June
- Tauranga - 10th June
- Nelson - 11th July
- Christchurch - 10th July
- Dunedin - 5th July
- Wellington - 15th August

[Register here](#)

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