



BC LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

1257 Erskine Street
Coquitlam BC, V3B 6R3
Phone 604.474.2441 Toll free 1.877 BC LAKES
Email: info@bclss.org Web: www.bclss.org

BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program (BCLSMP)

Safety Program for Volunteer Lake Samplers

The BCLSS' *Safety Program* applies to volunteers performing services in association with the BCLSS. **All volunteer samplers involved with the BC Lake Stewardship & Monitoring Program (BCLSMP) are required to read this material and sign this form.**

The BCLSS recognizes its responsibility to:

- Assure the safety of each volunteer engaged in BCLSS activities;
- Promote a safe and healthful working environment as well as safe procedures with regard to BCLSS activities;
- Ensure each volunteer is aware of and carries out their safety roles and responsibilities.

Under the *Safety Program*, it is the BCLSMP coordinator's (the BCLSS contact) responsibility to:

- Conduct meetings as required with volunteers in order to outline program/project objectives and deliverables,
- Ensure volunteers receive training appropriate for specific sampling tasks and safety issues.
- Identify any risks and hazards of associated tasks and conduct a job/project safety analysis which includes protective clothing, first aid requirements and well-being of volunteers as required,
- Conduct inspections of the LSMP field activities as part of normal performance audits,
- Take immediate action to correct any unsafe work condition, method, practice, procedure or equipment fault or defect, as may come to the coordinator's attention.
- Regularly consult with volunteers to assess the task and safety-related knowledge and skills required to ensure safe performance while conducting the LSMP.

Volunteers are requested to co-operate with and contribute to the BCLSS *Safety Program*. Volunteers shall:

- Attend meetings or training sessions as requested by the BCLSS.
- Have a check in procedure in place that will ensure a timely search is initiated upon failure to check in. It is strongly recommended that two people conduct the sampling.
- Adhere to safety programs in day-to-day volunteer activities.
- Adhere to all Federal Boating Regulations (*Safe Boating Guide*).
- Inspect their boats and equipment for unsafe conditions and hazards.
- Use personal protective clothing, devices or safety equipment for boat operation and occupancy as required by regulatory authorities, safety standards and procedures.
- Correct hazardous or unsafe conditions or work practices.
- Report all accidents, incidents and "near misses" to the BCLSS contact.



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Specific Safety Notifications

As part or full time residents of your sample lake, volunteers are expected by the BCLSS to:

- Have a specific knowledge of safe operation practices for the water craft used to access your specific LSMP.
- Have a reasonable knowledge of safety issues specific to your lake (e.g. shoals, dead heads, local weather anomalies, etc.) and to take these into account during the LSMP.

In order to maximize safety while conducting a LSMP, the *Safety Program* requires that:

- Boats must be of a stable design and in good operating condition. (Canoes are only appropriate during warm water and calm conditions, for Level I programs (Secchi/temperature)).
- Boats used for conducting lake monitoring must be under 8 meters in length. Liability of the BC Lake Stewardship Society is waived if sampling is conducted in a boat 8 meters or greater in length.
- Boat specifications regarding carrying capacity and motor restrictions are adhered to.
- Each volunteer wear an approved personal floatation device. If sampling large, cold lakes, a survival suit is strongly recommended.
- Volunteers must be particularly careful to dress appropriately during sampling early and late in the open water season. Cold water temperatures will very easily cause hypothermia and possible fatality of exposed persons. Hypothermia is a drop in body temperature to below normal and is very dangerous.
- Departure and intended return times are logged with a responsible individual on shore.
- Travel and sampling not be conducted in rough waters.

As a participant in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above material and understand the hazards involved with performing lake sampling and will make every effort to perform this service in a safe manner. I understand that I will not sample on days when weather or lake conditions make sampling hazardous and that if necessary the scheduled sample should not be taken, signed:

Volunteer Name: _____ Lake Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residential phone number: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian (if under age 18)