






Budgeting for Field Safety Supplies and Training





Overview

Fieldwork often requires travel and work at sites that lack basic services such as plumbed water and reliable communications. It's important during planning to budget for appropriate safety measures. The following items and training are standard precautions to promote safe operations in the field. Regulatory references are cited where applicable. It is appropriate for these items to be budgeted and reimbursable using University research and/or departmental operation funds. The examples are not intended as an endorsement of any specific products, manufacturers, or vendors.

Supplies

	Examples	Estimated Cost Range
Water coolers ¹		\$30-120 depending on size
Ice for coolers ¹		Varies, \$5-10 per day
Bottled water ¹		Varies, \$2-5 per person per day. May be higher internationally. The equivalent of 2 gallons per person per workday is reasonable for strenuous work in high heat.



	Examples	Estimated Cost Range
Shade tarp or canopy ¹		\$30-200
First Aid Kits ²		\$25-200, varies by group size and training level
Satellite Communication Phones and Devices ^{1,2}		\$300-1500 plus service plan starting at min. \$25/month
2-Way Field Radios ^{1,2}		\$50-250

¹Cal/OSHA’s Heat Illness Prevention Standard ([Title 8 §3395](#)) requires “pure and suitably cool” water to be provided to workers at no cost, as well as access to shade for breaks. The regulation also mandates outdoor workers have a reliable means of emergency communication.

²Cal/OSHA’s Medical Services and First Aid Standard ([Title 8 §3400](#)) requires in the absence of medical services in close proximity to a worksite that a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid and there shall be adequate first aid supplies readily available for employees on every job.



Training

	Examples	Estimated Cost Range
Standard First Aid	American Red Cross (typically 4-8 hours)	\$40-100
Wilderness First Aid ³	NOLS (typically 16 hours) Sierra Rescue (8 hour option)	\$170-240 \$80
Wilderness First Responder ⁴	NOLS (typically 80 hours)	\$700-1000
Specialized Skills	Tower Climbing & Rescue, Avalanche Safety, Snowmobile Safety, Hazwopper, Firearm Safety	Varies widely

³Wilderness First Aid training is appropriate for outdoor work at remote sites and includes standard first aid, but also covers environmental hazards in more detail and presents scenarios relevant when 911 response is not immediately available.

⁴Wilderness First Responder training is a standard prerequisite for trip guides in the outdoor recreation and environmental education community. This intensive training prepares trip leaders to manage a wide range of scenarios in the wilderness.

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