



Small Group Safety Policy

Date: June 2016

Review Date: June 2017

Purpose: To define the Club's policy for the minimum number of walkers required as participants for the safe completion of programmed Club walks.

Scope: The policy applies to all Club walks that are published on the Club's Program **that have less than four people** and is to be implemented by each walk Organiser.

Principles:

- The number of participants required for any walk to proceed depends on the:
 - Grade of the walk
 - Location of the walk
 - Communication equipment carried on the walk
 - Capability of the group
- The safety for participants depends on how these factors are combined.
- There are many combinations of these factors however the requirements outlined below are the minimum requirements.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Organiser

- To ensure that the numbers of participants meets the requirements of this policy for a walk that proceeds as described in the Club Program.

Walkers

- To ensure that their communication equipment is appropriate to the location and grade of the programmed walk.
- To ensure the robustness and safe storage of this communication equipment for the walk.
- To ensure that they are familiar with the operation of the equipment.



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Requirements for less than four people:

Participants	Walk Grade	Walk Location	Communication Equipment
2 - 3	Easy	Within known mobile phone coverage areas	Two mobile phones
2 - 3	Easy-Medium	Near fringes of known mobile phone coverage areas	Two mobile phones or one Personal Locator Beacon or SPOT Personal Tracker
2	Medium	Outside known mobile phone coverage areas	Two Personal Locator Beacons or SPOT Personal Trackers
3	Medium	Outside known mobile phone coverage areas	One Personal Locator Beacons or SPOT Personal Trackers
3	Medium – Hard	Outside known mobile phone coverage areas	One Personal Locator Beacon or SPOT Personal Tracker
3	Hard	Outside known mobile phone coverage areas	One Personal Locator Beacon or SPOT Personal Tracker

Explanatory Notes:

The previous practice whereby a minimum number of four participants was necessary, arose from an assumption that no communication would be possible from the walk location. This also assumed that there would be one incapacitated walker, one to remain with that walker while two walked to get help.

Contemporary communication equipment and rescue practices have overtaken these assumptions. Rescue services appear to encourage the use of appropriate communication equipment to initiate recovery as soon as it seems to be necessary rather than continuing or retreating without assistance.