WHOI’s Integrated Safety Initiative for Fieldwork

Mission:
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is committed to the safety and health of its staff, students, visitors, collaborators, community neighbors, and the environment. Commitment to health and safety by individuals at all levels and functions must be an integral part of the Institution’s activities, including fieldwork. The elimination of accident-related illness, injury, property loss, and environmental damage is a cooperative effort and integral to our overall mission. We believe that accidents are preventable and look to all members of the Institution community to do their part in helping to meet our goal of zero workplace injuries and zero vehicle accidents.

Guiding Principles:

• All levels and all operating locations of the Institution demonstrate a commitment to safety and embrace the goal of zero injuries, zero vehicle accidents, zero environmental incidents and view these occurrences as preventable through proactive safety management.
• Principal Investigators, managers, and supervisors are accountable for the health and safety of persons who report to them; they shall ensure that persons directed by them understand and comply with prescribed safety regulations and safe work practices, and shall investigate all hazards of which they become aware and shall take appropriate corrective action.
• All staff, students, collaborators, visitors and contractors are accountable for working in compliance with the Institution’s EH&S requirements, establishing safe work practices, and reporting unsafe or unhealthy conditions to their supervisors.
• All Institution personnel are empowered to stop any work activity that is not safe and to report unsafe conditions to their supervisors and the EH&S office.
• Job-related injuries, illnesses, hazardous material spills, vehicle accidents, other safety-related incidents, and near misses must be reported in a timely manner using the online forms: http://ehs.whoi.edu/ehs/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=0&tabid=1&itemID=15
• All WHOI personnel shall comply with the EH&S training program requirements: http://ehs.whoi.edu/ehs/occsafety/trainingRequirements.pdf.
• Using a continual improvement process, all potentially hazardous work tasks should be reviewed to identify the hazards, develop/implement hazard controls, and share lessons learned.