

MELTON BUSHWALKERS INC.

(Registration No. A0020535X)

Walk Safety Guidelines

Purpose

Purpose of these guidelines to assist walk leaders in determining a course of action when a walker is unable or struggling to complete a walk.

Walk Leader

The **walk leader** is responsible for assessing the situation and determining the appropriate course of action. For the walk leader to do this, they must be informed of the situation as soon as possible.

Whatever course of action being taken, the whole walking group needs to be informed.

Course of Action

If the walker cannot continue without assistance:

Contact emergency services for medical attention and evacuation.

Call 000 when mobile phone reception is available.

Volunteers may need to walk to get reception.

Use Emergency+ app if available as it also provides location identification.

Use the defibrillator if required.

Give appropriate first aid if required and possible.

Determine the appropriate course of action for the rest of the walking group:

Should the whole group remain until help arrives?

How many should stay behind to provide support?

If the walker is able to continue with assistance:

A volunteer should carry the walker's backpack.

Additional volunteers may be required to provide physical support.

Can the walk be shortened or is there is a suitable road closer than the end of the walk?

If taking the walker to the nearest road:

At least two volunteers are required to escort the walker.

At least one of the volunteers should be qualified in first aid, if possible.

The defibrillator should be taken with the walker.

If appropriate, at least two suitable volunteers should go ahead to drive a car to pick up the walker and escorts.

The main group should continue with the **walk leader** (or acting walk leader).

If continuing to the end of the walk:

The main group can continue ahead with the **walk leader** (or acting walk leader), but additional support walkers should remain with the walker.

When the walker has reached the end or been returned to the start of the walk, they can then be assessed again to decide if any further action is required.

In all cases, ensure that the whole walking group is informed of the course of action being taken.

Walkers

What can walkers do to mitigate such incidents:

Don't walk if you are unwell or it is too hot for you or think you might struggle on the walk.

Tell someone if you start to feel unwell or are having difficulties on a walk – they can tell the walk leader.

Don't worry about letting the group down or holding them up – there is no shame in asking for help.

Always bring sufficient water and food – as the weather gets hotter, you need to bring more water – dehydration is very dangerous.

In colder weather, ensure that you have sufficient appropriate clothing and other protection to keep dry and warm in the event of inclement weather.