



Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard

Bushwalking

Version 1.0 July 2008



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Adventure Activity Standards benchmark the minimum industry requirements and responsibilities for organisations and leaders conducting outdoor adventure activities for commercial and non – commercial groups.

The Adventure Activity Standards are designed to be applied when the participants are, for the purposes of participating in the bushwalking activity, either

- In a pre-existing group
 - Where either the group members (and or its representative third party) have made a collective purchase of / collective decision to participate in the activity (ie a school, corporate or community group); or are
- Formed into a new group
 - Where the participants have purchased / made the decision to participate in the activity as individuals or smaller groups, but having done so become a part of a new group (ie citizens or tourists who, having purchased an activity from an organisation or leader individually, are formed into a group for the purposes of participating in the activity provided).

In all cases the relationship between the group of participants and the activity provider is one based upon dependence by way of contract and or duty of care.

The existence of other types of groups where the group is less defined and NOT dependent as a group upon an activity provider for the conduct of the activity is acknowledged. (ie independent club members participating in an activity). It is intended that such less defined groups of independent participants are not “captured” by the AAS.

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards were developed by an industry wide consultative process coordinated by Outdoors WA following the recommendations of the 2006 State Government Adventure Tourism Visitor Safety Task Force Report. The Project received grant funding via the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The development and implementation of the AAS allows the outdoor adventure industry to demonstrate its collective integrity and agreed standards. This, in turn will provide a measure of quality for the purposes of assisting

1. Consumers of our services to make informed choices about the services they select
2. Training organisations to produce graduates who understand and meet industry standards
3. Media, insurance and legal scrutineers of our industry and its members, to understand what is acceptable practice and what is not
4. The development of sustainable use practices that consider the specific natural and cultural heritage values of areas in which we conduct outdoor activities

The AAS are a critical component of the **industry quality framework** comprising four aligned and inter-connected components

1. **Accreditation** - the required business operating standards for businesses and organisations
2. **Adventure Activity Standards** - the minimum standards to which an activity must be conducted by a provider to dependent groups of participants
3. **Leader Competency / Registration Scheme** - the responsibilities and competencies required of the leaders conducting the outdoor activities
4. **Codes of Conduct** – the behavioural expectations of persons operating as outdoor leaders

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	4
PLANNING AND PREPARATION	5
Preliminary Information	5
Route / Campsite(s) Plan.....	5
Risk Management Plan.....	6
Emergency Response Plan	6
Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size.....	7
Minimal Environmental Impact Plan - Leave No Trace 7 Principles	7
REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS.....	8
Responsibilities of Leaders	8
Competencies of Leaders	9
Restricted Bushwalking Guide	10
Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas)	10
Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or Unmodified Areas)	11
Bushwalking Instructors	12
FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS	12
REQUIREMENTS / RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANISATIONS	13
EQUIPMENT.....	13
Participant's Equipment*	13
Leaders' and Group Equipment*	13
DEFINITION OF TERMS	14
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	14
FEEDBACK, REVIEW & APPEALS	14
FURTHER INFORMATION	14

INTRODUCTION

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) have been developed to assist organisations and leaders to plan and conduct outdoor adventure activities with commercial and non-commercial dependent groups of participants where there is a duty of care based in contract and or in authority.

The purpose of the AAS is to maintain the perception of adventure whilst simultaneously reducing / managing the real risk for participants. Increased outdoor physical activity with reduced incident and accident rates will be the ultimate performance indicators of the value of the AAS.

The AAS provide a valuable resource for the development of operating procedures, and or for the purposes of comparing existing operating procedures to industry agreed benchmarked standards. All groups differ in their collective skills and experience and in their degree of dependence upon the leader. They participate in outdoor activities at a range of sites with varying conditions (including weather). It therefore **remains the responsibility of the leader to make the professional judgements and decisions concerning the conduct of the activity to ensure the safety of the group.** The AAS are designed to assist such judgements and decision making.

The AAS are also designed to promote knowledge and awareness of the broad and activity specific impacts increasing recreation and travel opportunities place upon the natural environment. The AAS are designed to assist the protection of biodiversity values and the preservation of cultural sites balanced with the increased access demands. The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace are imbedded within the AAS.

Whilst not statutory standards, the AAS provide the basis for policy formation and decision making by jurisdictions external to the outdoor adventure activity industry including, but not restricted to, licensing, insurance and legal jurisdictions.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The activity of bushwalking involves walking in the natural environment for pleasure, challenge, experience and / or educational outcomes. The term 'bushwalking' is appropriately applied to long (multi day) as well as short (an hour or two) walks that can be experienced in diverse environments including urban suburbs, coastal, alpine, outback and remote regions.

This AAS is intended to be applied in circumstances where the bushwalking experience is the primary activity undertaken by a dependent group of participants.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The AAS provides a planning and preparation framework considered critical in maximising participant safety and enjoyment. All planning must be finalised and the relevant components documented before the activity is undertaken. A suggested planning and preparation framework includes

- Preliminary Information
- Route / Campsite Plan(s)
- Risk Management Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Minimal Environmental Impact Plan

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

Preliminary Information

The following are the minimum information requirements for conducting a bushwalk

- Objectives / desired outcomes of the session (recommended only)
- Planned start and finish times (may also include sector times)
- Leader to participant ratio and group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Profile of the group (age (if relevant), fitness level / capability, experience)
- Land / campsite manager requirements including
 - Access restrictions
 - Group sizes
 - Booking and permit requirements
 - Regulations with regard to fire and the conduct of activities
 - Current environmental management policies and biodiversity issues effecting the region (refer to www.dec.wa.gov.au)
 - Regulations in regard to fire restrictions, restrictions, bans, local conditions
- Availability of suitable maps
- Equipment requirements (refer Equipment)
- Dependent participants' names and emergency contact details
- Medical information advised by dependent participants which may be relevant to the activity
 - Conditions – EG asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, fainting, allergic reactions, blood conditions which may effect bleeding/ blood clotting, recent or long-standing injuries, (eg back, knee, ankle), disability, psychological conditions
 - Medications - what is it / why is it required / how is it administered?
- Group members are advised, in writing and or in a verbal briefing, of
 - Potential risks associated with the activity
 - The policy on drugs and alcohol
 - The requirement to conform to responsible and attentive behaviour
 - Suggested physical requirements for the walk (EG “*must be able to walk 20 kilometres a day carrying a 30 kg pack*”)
- RECOMMENDED - Participant signed legal liability disclaimer (informed consent) / waiver to sue / authorisation to seek / provide emergency medical treatment (retain for a time frame as dictated by the Statute of Limitations Act 2005); dependent participants under the age of 18 must have the signature of a parent / guardian if required by the organisation that has legal responsibility for them
- An understanding of the natural and cultural history / diversity of the site(s) / location(s)

Route / Campsite(s) Plan

The purpose of the route / campsite(s) plan is to assess issues regarding access, environmental impact, risk and emergency communications relative to a particular site. The route / campsite(s) plan shall provide details of

- Assessment of the suitability of the route / campsite(s) for the size and ability of the group
- Access to and along the route / campsite(s)
 - by vehicle (2WD / 4WD) including emergency services vehicles
 - on foot including the best routes to take to minimise environmental impact
- Where is / are the best place (s) to make an emergency contact (by mobile or satellite phone if

coverage available, by radio or by a runner party to a land line, by EPIRB/PLB) and where is the best place to make these calls from

- Route / Campsite(s) characteristics
 - Weather forecast (temperature, wind, rain)
 - Potential risks; how these risks can be managed
 - Specific terrain / route characteristics
 - Availability of drinking water
 - Availability of shelter
 - Surface type & suitability
- Contingency plans for forecast / foreseeable weather conditions
- Opportunities for rest breaks and availability of shaded areas / shelter
- Toileting facilities and appropriate waste disposal options
- Location of any water sources
- Location of any culturally significant areas, structures, artefacts or rock art that need to be avoided
- Location of any rare or endangered plants or animals, or sensitive areas
- Ability of route / campsite(s) to withstand visitation with minimal impact upon vegetation

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

Risk Management Plan

The purpose of the Risk Management Plan is to identify the human, route / campsite(s) specific, equipment and environmental risks for the safe conduct of the activity. By identifying, analysing and evaluating these risks, appropriate strategies to reduce / manage the risk can be developed and implemented. Bushwalking leaders must assess the chosen route / campsite(s) for potential hazards and adapt the planning of the activity as required. Information with regard to any new hazard must be made available within the group / organisation and to the relevant land manager where appropriate.

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

The Risk Management Plan must consider

- Leader(s) have the required authorisation, skills, qualifications and experience to
 - conduct the bushwalk in the selected environment(s)
 - satisfy the planned objectives
 - effectively manage incidents (refer Requirements of Leaders)
 - preserve the environmental integrity of the route and campsite(s)
- Leader : Participant ratio (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group profile including
 - Skill / experience levels
 - Needs / requirements
 - Knowledge of environmental minimum impact strategies
 - Methods for managing the group at all times including walkers at the front, in the middle and at the end of your line of walkers

Emergency Response Plan

The purpose of the Emergency Response Plan is to provide a set of steps for leaders to follow in the event of an emergency which may include injury or death. The plan must include information to assist the leader to minimise the escalation of the situation, the injuries incurred and how to reduce the likelihood of further incidents occurring. The Emergency Response Plan must be route / campsite(s) specific and document current details including

- Access and egress options from the route / campsite(s) including sectors
- Contingency plans for effective rescue with minimum environmental impact to the route / campsite(s)
- Group assembly points
- Emergency contact details which may include
 - Next stage of definitive medical care (hospital, doctor)
 - Police
 - Relevant Agencies (EG Department of Environment and Conservation, land owners, rescue services, Department of Planning and Infrastructure)
- Specific communication requirements / available networks

ALL leaders must carry a copy and be fully aware of the emergency response plan (often included as a part of the “route plan”). A copy of the emergency response plan must also be kept (with other documentation) with a non-participating contact and be readily accessible by the leader via an available telecommunication method in the event of an emergency.

The leader is to communicate with the relevant external contact at a designated time(s). Upon failure to do so the external contact must action the emergency response plan which may include contacting the police. In situations where there is only one leader, the emergency response plan shall have been introduced to, and be available to members of the group so that it may be actioned in the event that the leader becomes unfit to do so.

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size

Whilst it is acknowledged that the characteristics of the route / campsite(s), the profile of the group, the purposes of the bushwalk, and the experience of the leader(s) will influence the ratios of leaders to dependent participants, the minimum ratios considered acceptable are

- ***Day and Overnight Walks – AS Track Grades 1,2,3,4,5,6***

Operational Ratio for u/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for registered / recognised leader with additional responsible adult to actual dependent participants 1:1:22*

- ***Day and Overnight Walks – AS Track Grades 1,2,3,4***

Operational Ratio for o/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for registered / recognised leader to actual dependent participants 1:22*

*Recommended Operational Ratio for o/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for registered / recognised leader to actual dependent participants 1:1:22**

- ***Day and Overnight Walks – AS Track Grades 5 and 6***

Operational Ratio for o/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for registered / recognised leader to actual dependent participants 1:12*

*Recommended Operational Ratio for o/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for registered / recognised leader to actual dependent participants 1:1:12**

Operational Ratio for o/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for registered / recognised leader to actual dependent participants 1:1:13+*

Group size will be determined by route and campsite(s) characteristics, land manager restrictions, environmental considerations and the application of the above ratios

NOTES:

1. *On AS Track Grades 1,2,3 and 4 there is no minimum group size

2.* On AS Track Grades 5 and 6 the RECOMMENDED MINIMUM group size is 4

Minimal Environmental Impact Plan - Leave No Trace 7 Principles

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare*

- Know the regulations for and special concerns of the area in which you'd like to bushwalk
- Be aware of the biodiversity values and threats of the region and the specific condition of the locality
- In the South West Ecoregion, a world biodiversity hotspot, access detailed information about occurrence of Phytophthora Dieback

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces*

- Stay on durable surfaces, which include established tracks, rock, gravel and dry grasses where practical
- Always walk on the track even if wet and muddy, to avoid widening it (with the exception of Phytophthora areas where one should avoid mud)
- On narrow paths walk in single file as much as possible to avoid widening the track
- Manage groups to minimise disturbance to vegetation to reduce erosion and the spread of pest plant species

- Avoid revegetation areas altogether

3. Dispose of Waste Properly*

- Pack and carry out all rubbish including leftover food and organics
- Inspect your campsite and rest areas for rubbish and spilled food before leaving
- Be careful not to drop rubbish while walking
- Human waste and waste water should be disposed of at least 100 metres from any waterway
- When available, use established toilet facilities

4. Leave What You Find*

- It is illegal to excavate, disturb or remove archaeological, historical and cultural artefacts from any public or wilderness lands
- Respect indigenous sites to ensure their longevity; land managers can advise you on these locations
- Do not touch rock art, which can be damaged by the natural oils from human skin
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them
- Avoid spreading non-native plant and animal species that are generally impossible to eradicate once they are introduced; do not transport flowers, weeds, wood or aquatic plants into or out of the wilderness
- Avoid transporting mud in the soles of boots, on tent pegs and walking poles by washing thoroughly before and after travelling; use wash stations immediately where provided
- Check clothing and all gear and burn or dispose of all hitchhiker type seeds before and after travelling in different areas

5. Minimise Campfire Impacts*- use a fuel stove

- Observe Total Fire Bans and campfire regulations; liaise with local land management staff
- Use a lightweight stove for cooking or use a candle lantern for light when possible
- Where fires are permitted, use designated, constructed fireplaces only
- Keep fires small; use of fallen fuel and sticks
- Extinguish fire completely

6. Respect Wildlife*

- Minimise noise at campsites
- Minimise interaction with wildlife and DO NOT FEED

7. Consider Your Hosts and Other Visitors*

- Do not block paths or tracks with people or equipment
- Respect the wishes and regulations of all hosts – indigenous, pastoral, land managers and locals

* **Further information is available at Leave No Trace Australia www.lnt.org.au**

* **Further information is available from the Department of Indigenous Affairs at www.dia.wa.gov.au/Heritage--Culture**

REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS

The performance of the leader is a critical factor in the safe conduct of a bushwalking activity. The leader is required to

- Accept responsibility for the planning, preparation and conduct of the activity
- Maintain current skills, qualifications and experience as required
- Accept responsibility for the environmental preservation of the sites and surrounding areas

This does not exclude the fact that dependent participants are responsible for their own actions in relation to the potential risks that may be encountered by choosing to participate in a bushwalking activity.

Responsibilities of Leaders

Leaders are required to accept the following responsibilities

- To ensure that ALL required competencies as outlined in “Competencies of Leaders” are available to the group for the walk, if not within his / her competency profile then within the collective of his / her co-leaders
- To use their judgement to make decisions that will ensure the safety of all group members and maintain the integrity of the environment including matters relevant to
 - People based risks*
 - Collect all documentation / forms signed by all dependent participants / parents or guardians (or ensure data is collected by the third party responsible for the group)

- Communicate the anticipated risks relating to the activity to the group in a pre-activity briefing, and others that arise during the walk
- Match the experience / capabilities of the group to the activity
- Be aware where participants have stored / are carrying their personal medications
- Ensure all significant incidents and accidents are documented and reported in writing to the organisation sanctioning the walk within seven (7) days of the completion of the walk or as soon as is practical
 - Ideally the sanctioning organisation will in turn communicate such incident(s) or accident(s) to Outdoors WA in writing
- Site / route based risks*
 - Be familiar with the selected site(s) / route(s) and the scope of variation of conditions likely to be encountered; check weather forecasts and water obstacles pre - departure
 - Appropriately manage hazards that are encountered
 - Consider the availability of drinking water on route and have appropriate contingency plans
 - Be aware of and comply with the land / site manager's guidelines including minimal impact
 - Notify nominated external contacts of safe return / completion when appropriate
- Equipment based risks*
 - Check suitability, condition and use of all equipment prior to departure
 - Ensure correct use of equipment by all dependent participants
 - Ensure that a First Aid Kit and communication equipment suitable for the route are in good order
- Environmental based risks*
 - Apply Leave No Trace Principles
 - Comply with the land / site manager's guidelines including minimal impact principles relative to flora, fauna and rubbish removal
 - Report all environmental damage to the appropriate land manager
 - Report any perceived breaches of the Bushwalking AAS to Outdoors WA

Competencies of Leaders

Leaders require a range of technical and group facilitation skills to effectively conduct group bushwalking activities. Leaders are deemed to be competent to the national standard to lead bushwalking activities if

- They are currently registered in the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS)* as a bushwalking guide or instructor (NOLRS is administered by Outdoors WA on behalf of the Outdoor Council of Australia) which requires
 - A recognised qualification or skill set
 - Sufficient current experience
 - Appropriate first aid qualifications (refer First Aid Qualifications)

*** NOLRS is based on the Outdoor Recreation Training Package**

*** registration with NOLRS must be achieved by 30 December 2009**

*** further information about NOLRS including how to register is available at www.outdoorswa.org**

***the registration achieved must align with the specific form of bushwalking to be undertaken ie. Bushwalking Guide – Tracked or Easy Untracked**

OR IF

- They are “signed off as sufficiently competent for the walk” by the organisation sanctioning the walk whereby such “sign off” is based upon the following competency framework and where the organisation accepts that the leader's competence may not have been formally assessed against nor recognised as meeting the national standard

Restricted Bushwalking Guide

A person designated as a Restricted Bushwalking Guide has the skills, fitness, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgment is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. The Restricted Guide may independently guide bushwalks up to one full day in specific geographic areas / on specific tracks as defined as Class 1, 2 or 3 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001) but only when

- He / she is fully aware of the defined context of the walk
- The range of options for the walk (ie in route selection) is minimal
- There are clearly defined / documented Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- A specific risk management plan for the selected track and location is available
- Assistance is readily available using routine communication techniques / strategies should a non-routine situation arise (mobile phone, radio, easy access to external assistance)
- The route is tracked and signed (ie. where tracks are reliably marked on maps and are obvious on the ground with obvious signs and track markers for direction)
- A minimum level of specialised skills is required to negotiate natural hazards such as steep slopes, unstable surfaces and minor water crossings
- Extremes of weather are historically unlikely in the location
- "Supervision" is provided indirectly through application of a documented risk management plan for the specific walk location(s) and type of client group. (This documented risk management plan must have been developed or reviewed by a person with greater competence and experience than the proposed guide (preferably including knowledge of the location(s) of the walk) OR by an organisational process that avails the guide of operating procedures developed to minimize risk to participants (EG standard organisational operating procedures).

A Restricted Bushwalking Guide must possess the skills, knowledge and experience that enable them to

- Plan and implement minimal environmental impact by applying LNT principles
- Implement a risk management plan
- Interpret and apply weather forecasts
- Comply with relevant legislation including fires and other relevant matters
- Manage groups effectively
- Demonstrate bushwalking skills including basic map reading skills
- Respond to emergency situations; implement an emergency response plan

Persons with this level of competence may also work as an assistant with a more experienced guide in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (eg. bushwalks in tracked or easy untracked areas).

Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas)

A person designated as a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked and Easy Untracked) has the skills, fitness, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a limited range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where discretion and judgment is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. The Bushwalking Guide may independently guide half day, full day overnight and multi day bushwalks in multiple geographic areas on multiple tracks or easy untracked terrain as defined as Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001) when

- He / she is fully aware of the context of the walk all be it potentially less defined than that of a Restricted Guide
- The range of options for the walk (ie in route selection) is limited

- There are documented Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- A specific risk management plan for the selected route and campsite(s) is available
- The route is tracked or easy untracked and maybe signed (ie. where there are significant landmarks to assist navigation and tracks are reliably marked on maps / are obvious on the ground, although there may be no major modifications to the ground surface
- Assistance is available within approximately 3 hours using routine communication techniques such as mobile phone, satellite phone or radio (ie. leaders need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and weather hazards)
- Access to external assistance or safe collecting feature (IE. a road) is easily reached by applying navigation principles
- "Supervision" is provided indirectly through application of a documented risk management plan for the specific walk location(s) and type of client group. (This documented risk management plan must have been developed or reviewed by a person with greater competence and experience than the proposed guide (preferably including knowledge of the location(s) of the walk) OR by an organisational process that avails the guide of operating procedures developed to minimize risk to participants (EG standard organisational operating procedures).

A Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Restricted Bushwalking Guide PLUS those that enable them to:

- Manage risk in outdoor activities
- Provide leadership to groups
- Use and maintain a temporary or overnight campsite
- Navigate using a map and compass in untracked areas
- Operate suitable communications systems and equipment
- Guide bushwalks in tracked or easy untracked areas
- Demonstrate shallow river crossings

Persons with this level of competence may also work as an assistant with a more experienced guide in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (eg. bushwalks in difficult, trackless and unmodified areas).

Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or Unmodified Areas)

A person designated as a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or Unmodified Areas) has the skills, fitness, knowledge and experience that enable them to work independently within a variety of settings and contexts that may be complex and non-routine. Leadership and guidance are involved when organising group activities as well as managing technical solutions of a non-routine or contingency nature. A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or Unmodified Areas) has the knowledge, skills and experience to lead dependent participants on bushwalks up to and including tracks defined as Class 5 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001). They will have the capacity to guide multi-day bushwalks along tracks which may be in multiple, difficult and trackless geographic locations when

- They can work independently in a broad range of locations with a variety of different participant groups and can manage non-routine situations
- There are no / limited modifications to the natural surface and or the route alignment is indistinct in places
- There is no / minimal clearance along the route and there may be debris
- Signage is minimal and at best only for management purposes (ie limited directional signage)
- There are terrain and man-made hazards (such as cliff lines or dense forests) and there may be steep sections of unmodified surface
- A high degree of specialised skills (including advanced navigation skills), as well as maps and navigation equipment are required to successfully complete the walk
- They can be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and weather fluctuations
- There is an appreciable risk of onset of extreme environmental conditions (eg. poor visibility, extreme heat/cold or wind) which may affect navigation and safety

A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or Unmodified Areas) must have the ability to bushwalk in a bushland, arid, alpine, or rainforest area defined as difficult or trackless for a minimum period of two day's duration in different seasons when extreme environmental conditions are not anticipated, although the possibility for changes in weather and visibility exists.

A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or unmodified Areas) must possess all the skills, fitness, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) PLUS those that enable them to:

- Interpret weather conditions in the field
- Demonstrate bushwalking skills in difficult, trackless and unmodified areas
- Navigate in difficult and trackless areas
- Demonstrate safe river crossing skills in deep water
- Guide bushwalks in difficult and trackless areas
- Coordinate emergency response

A Guide with this level of competence may perform a broad range of skilled applications. These may include the evaluation and analysis of current practices, development of new criteria and procedures for performing current practices and provision of some leadership and guidance to others in the application and planning of the skills.

A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult, Trackless and or Unmodified Areas) must have the ability to bushwalk in unmodified landscapes whilst carrying a pack equipped with provisions for extended overnight expeditions (greater than two nights) in different seasons where there is an appreciable risk of onset of extreme environmental conditions (eg. poor visibility, extreme heat/cold or wind).

Bushwalking Instructors

- Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas
- Difficult and Trackless Areas / Unmodified Landscapes

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor at any of the above 2 levels has the skills, knowledge and experience to facilitate skill transfer to or development within others in order that they may then guide other groups and or bushwalk independently in the type of terrain as described in the level instructed. This requires the Instructor to be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies and assess the client's skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Bushwalking Guide as well as additional skills and experience in training and assessment.

A Bushwalking Instructor must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide, PLUS those that enable them to:

- Train and assess small groups
- Instruct bushwalking in Unmodified Landscapes

Further details are available at www.outdoorswa.org

FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

Bushwalking groups require leaders with first aid qualifications in addition to the competencies listed above. The following framework guides the level of first aid qualification required for different types of bushwalks.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Urban Walks (less than half a day) | - Basic first aid knowledge |
| ▪ Bushwalks (half to full day) | - Basic first aid knowledge / Senior First Aid (or equivalent) |
| ▪ Multi Day Bushwalks | - Senior First Aid |
| ▪ Remote Wilderness Walks | - Advanced, Remote or Wilderness First Aid |

In addition, the location of the walk in terms of medical support influences the level of qualification required

1. Within one hour from definitive medical care – Senior First Aid required
2. Beyond one hour from definitive medical care – an advanced / wilderness / remote First Aid qualification is required

REQUIREMENTS / RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANISATIONS

Organisations sanctioning the conduct of bushwalking activities for dependent groups of people are required to

- Maintain current appropriate insurance
- Report incidents and accidents to relevant jurisdictions in writing within seven(7) days
 - Insurers
 - Land Managers
 - Outdoors WA (recommended)
- Provide leaders with the necessary resources to conduct the bushwalk in accordance with all aspects of this Standard
- Notify nominated external contacts of safe return / completion when appropriate
- Verify and accept responsibility for the current competence of leaders selected for bushwalking activities

EQUIPMENT

Equipment requirements vary with the objectives of the activity, the group characteristic profile and the environmental conditions likely to be encountered. When planning equipment requirements for a bushwalk it is important to consider all possible eventualities and to select equipment that will maintain safety and minimise cultural and environmental impact of the activity.

Participant's Equipment*

The following equipment requirements apply to all dependent participants

- Clothing appropriate to the requirements of the route and potential weather conditions with particular emphasis upon protection from the sun, wind, rain, cold, heat, insect bites and vegetation cuts
- Appropriate footwear (usually enclosed)
- Participant's personal medication including sun and insect protection
- Suitable and sufficient water carrying capability
- Basic first aid items to manage blisters, small cuts etc (recommended)
- Whistle (optional)

Leaders' and Group Equipment*

The following equipment is required for all dependant group bushwalking activities

- A copy of the emergency response plan
- Emergency communication equipment (EG. mobile phone, satellite phone, details of nearest land line, radio, EPIRB / PLB if in remote area etc.)
- A First Aid Kit appropriate for the level of training completed, the location of the activity and the size of the group
- Tools for proper waste disposal (ie trowel if necessary)
- A whistle
- Fire starting requirements as required
- A relevant map and compass
- Equipment to clean footwear and other items that may carry soil borne pathogens such as phytophthora (excludes disease risk free areas or if such equipment is available "on track")

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Activity Provider** – an entity, person or group of persons assuming the role of providing the activity (the activity provider) for a dependent group of participants for a specific commercial or not – for – profit purpose
- **Dependent Group / Participant** – a group or individual within a group whose welfare associated with participating in the activity is in part the responsibility of the leader; who is dependent upon the leader for their safe participation in the activity which may be so deemed by law or contract
- **Outdoor Leader** - term for an individual accepting the roles of leading and managing the outdoor activity; can be a guide or instructor; can be paid or voluntary
- **Registered Leader** - currently registered in the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme
- **Recognised Leader** – outdoor leader recognized as suitably experienced and skilled by an organisation
- **Competency** - minimum industry agreed standard of skill and knowledge necessary for a specific activity being conducted at a specific level
- **Responsible Adult** – adult person deemed, by the outdoor leader, as adequately capable of accepting responsibility for selected aspects of the management of the group and or its participants in conjunction with the safe conduct of the activity
- **Phytophthora** – Phytophthora Dieback: is a microscopic soil borne water mould that attacks plants. It impacts 40 percent of our native plant species and threatens whole communities including animal habitats. It is spread in the movement of infested water, soil or plant material. As the name water mould suggests, it requires moist conditions to thrive. Its food source is the root and basal stem tissue of living plants. It is currently the biggest threat to biodiversity in Australia and it is spread extensively by human activity. More information is available online at www.dieback.net.au
- **Route** - includes all intended and emergency routes, rest stops and campsites

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Adventure Activity Standards initially developed by The Outdoor Recreation Centre in Victoria proved to be an invaluable resource in the development of the Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard for Bushwalking.

In addition The Australian Standard for Walking Track Classification and Leave No Trace Australia provided resource in the development of the Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard for Bushwalking.

FEEDBACK, REVIEW & APPEALS

The AAS are designed to be 'living' standards with feedback, requests for review and/or appeal against aspects of a standard considered to be healthy part of the development process, one that will ensure the currency & relevancy of the standards. Feedback, requests for review and/or appeals will be managed by the Industry Standards Panel. Details and proformas are available at www.outdoorswa.org / industry quality framework / Industry Standards Panel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Outdoors WA for further information or to obtain contact details of the organisations conducting bushwalking activities and training.

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