Health and Safety Policy (v1)

We aim to provide safe environments for our people to volunteer freely all across New Zealand. Our goal is for every volunteer to return home unharmed.

**The Cause is Important, Your Safety is Paramount**

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**We believe that…**

* All volunteers are entitled to feel safe,
* Health and Safety is everyone’s responsibility,
* Anyone should feel confident to stop an unsafe project, and
* Health and Safety is a learning journey, which we can always improve.

**Our commitment is to…**

* Lead by example in all areas Health and Safety,
* Identify, eliminate or control health and safety risks,
* Train volunteers to assess and minimise risk,
* Ensure adequate numbers of volunteers are equipped to deal with accidents/ incidents,
* Minimise risk and hazards wherever volunteers are,
* Implement health and well-being initiatives and encourage volunteer leaders to extend this to their teams,
* Empower volunteers to think about their health and well-being outside of volunteering,
* Review and revise policy and procedures regularly to ensure best practice,
* Communicate the policy and procedures (including any updates) to all people operating under the SVA banner, and
* Consult with our people to inform our practices.

**Everyone we work with will…**

* Understand this policy,
* Take ownership of their own behaviour and ensure it is safe,
* Comply with all SVA procedures, training and instruction,
* Report all incidents, near misses or hazards in a timely manner to the appropriate person, and
* Stop any and all unsafe activity.

Sam Johnson

SVA Chief Executive

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