

Risk Assessment Worksheet		1. Project/Incident/Work Activity: Trail Maintenance and Construction				2. Location: Eldorado National Forest					
3. Specific Objective: Maintenance and construction of trails while on public lands		4. Name and Title of Preparer: Michael Hartman-Koltun, Recreation Management Specialist				5. Date Prepared: Tuesday, January 13th 2026					
6. Risk Decision Authority: The risk decision authority block should be signed after the worksheet is completed. Use the Risk Decision Authority matrix to determine the authorization required to sign in block 6.											
Signature:				Title: DISTRICT RANGER				Date: January 20 th 2026			
Identify Hazards		Assess Hazards			Risk Control Options		Residual Risk			Decision	Implement
7. Task	8. Hazard	9. Hazard Probability	10. Severity / Consequence	11. RAC	12. Identify hazard mitigations & abatement measures (press [alt + enter] to add a line)	13. Hazard Probability	14. Severity / Consequence	15. RAC	16. Task Necessary?	17. Hazard Control Assigned to:	
Travel To / From Work Locations	Foot Travel (Sore feet, blisters and strains)	Possible	Negligible	Low	Wear properly fitting and broken in work boots with a non-skid sole. Wear clean, quality, properly fitting socks. Take appropriate action to protect hot spots, blisters or any other foot tenderness.	Unlikely	Negligible	Low	YES	Individual	
Travel To / From Work Locations	Foot Travel (Slips, Trips and Falls)	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Plan ahead, select safe routes, and watch for changes in ground surface, slick spots or other unusual hazards. Test and use secure footing. Walk, never run, down slopes. In heavy undergrowth, lift feet high to clear obstacles, slow down, and watch your step. Always carry tools on the downhill side. Know how to fall. Try to land in an unobstructed spot. Protect your head and back. Roll with the fall. Do not stick out your arms to break the fall. Avoid walking on logs, step OVER them, not ON them. While walking downhill, on slippery ground or loose footing, keep your weight on your heels, take shorter strides, keep knees bent, lean slightly backwards and use as much of the inside of your feet as possible. Wear appropriate clothing.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	Individual	
General Field Work	Loose Rocks	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Maintain safe walking distance between people – at least 10 feet. Avoid walking up a steep slope directly under another person. Avoid kicking out loose rocks or other materials. Communicate with co-workers so they are aware of your location. Shout an alarm if loose material is rolling downhill.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual	
General Field Work	Cuts and Scrapes	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Wear proper PPE (hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, long sleeve shirts, etc.)	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual	
General Field work	Adverse weather conditions- Lightning Strikes	Unlikely	Catastrophic	High	Review the Health and Safety Code Handbook 54.23. Seek indoor shelter immediately. If outdoors, get into a non-metal topped vehicle or seek shelter in a cave, tunnel, canyon, or head-high clump of trees in open forest area. Stay away from tall objects, machinery, electronically conducive areas, water, and large open areas. Make yourself as small of a target as possible and avoid grouping with other people and horses or stock. Turn off all radios and electronic equipment. If you feel a tingling sensation on your hair or your hair stands on end, immediately crouch and cover your head. DO NOT lie down or place hands on the ground.	Rare	Catastrophic	Moderate	YES	Individual	
General Field Work	Adverse Weather Conditions- Solar UV Radiation/Heat Stress	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Review the Health and Safety Code Handbook 54.2. Know basic first aid and how to identify signs of heat-related illnesses. Work in pairs and use the buddy system to check up on each other. Wear lightweight, loose fitting, light-colored clothing and UV-protected glasses. Use sunscreen and reapply often. When possible, stay indoors during the peak exposure time in the summer or find shady worksites. Schedule the hardest work for the coolest part of the day. Drink plenty of fluids following guidelines in the Health and Safety Code Handbook 54.21 Exhibit 2. Be physically fit. Take regular breaks in the shade.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual	

Drinking Water	Illness from drinking contaminated water	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Drink from a treated water source, where possible. Bring extra water with you. Know the location of available drinking water. If treated water is unavailable, be prepared to use proper filtration techniques (filter, boil, chemical).	Rare	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual
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Hand Tools & Equipment- General Use	Injury from sharp and heavy tools, tripping, contamination, ergonomic hazards.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Refer to Chapter 40 of Health and Safety Code Handbook for details on specific tool use safety. Be certified to operate equipment or obtain supervisor approval where no certification is necessary. Operate equipment only if you are properly trained or are in training and under supervision as approved by your supervisor. Review appropriate equipment-specific JHAs before equipment use. Always wear proper PPE for the tools being used (safety glasses, hard hat, gloves, saw chaps, ear protection, 8" non-skid leather boots, long sleeve shirt and work pants). Learn and utilize the proper techniques for tool use. Review ergonomics. Check and maintain tools to ensure they are sharp, free of defects, and have sound, well-fitting handles prior to use. Do not use tools or equipment that is in disrepair or that has frayed cords. Maintain a clean, organized work space when using power tools. Use a sheath when the tool is not in use. Always secure tools and never transport in same compartment as personnel. Use the right tool for the job. Carry tools on the downhill side of the trail, sharp side down. Do not carry tools over the shoulder. Avoid contact with sharp edges. Maintain a safe working distance (10' minimum). Do not loosen rocks or logs that could roll downhill and injure a coworker. Communicate with coworkers, especially when passing or when falling trees or limbs. Do not swing tools toward yourself, avoid glancing blows, and maintain proper grip. Always be aware of your surroundings. Check the area often for hazards and for coworkers working too closely. Reevaluate often. When not in use, place the tool off-trail on level ground with the sharp side away from the trail in a location where it will not trip anyone. Do not lean tools against trees. Do not pry toward your face or body. Clean tools and equipment after use to avoid contamination by poison-oak.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual
Sharpening tools using hand file	Cuts, metal slivers in hands	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Refer to pages 131-132 of Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook for sharpening instructions or watch the video An Axe to Grind. Always wear appropriate PPE (gloves, safety goggles, long-sleeve shirt). Prior to filing, fit the file with a handle and knuckle guard. Use a stable work surface. Follow sharpening guides carefully.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual
Lifting and moving materials (rocks, logs, etc.)	Back injury/hernia, smashed fingers, other injury	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Use materials that are nearby and safely accessible. Use safe body mechanics and tools to move heavy materials. Lift with the legs. Hold object close to body. Ask for help if needed. Use mechanical devices or roll carefully with control when objects are too large or heavy. Don't be afraid to cut a log again to make it easier to move. Use rigging equipment only when adequately trained for that equipment, and work within safe load limits. Pay attention to where crew members and obstacles are to avoid tripping. Communicate with crew members. Clearly agree when you are lifting, directionally moving, and dropping the object before doing so. Take extra care when moving materials across side hills, and post flaggers to protect the public, if necessary.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Individual
Contact with Forest Visitors	Disease Spread	Unlikely	Catastrophic	High	Consider wearing a face mask when in close quarters with people of unknown status. Step off the trail, keep recommended social distance when encountering people.	Rare	Catastrophic	Moderate	YES	Supervisor and employee
Personal Protective Equipment, Social Distancing	Illness, Disease Contamination	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Disinfectant solutions, cloth face coverings, nitrile or vinyl disposable gloves, facial sealing eye protection. Avoid close contact by maintaining at least 6 feet distance from others. Consider using single-person crosscut saws as opposed to two-person saws. Sanitize tools when done using or when transferring from person to person.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Supervisor and employee
General Field Work	Spread of COVID-19	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Reference Public Services Program COVID-19 Risk Assessment.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	Supervisor and employee

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