

EBORIENTEERS Orienteering Club

Safety of orienteers working alone in terrain for the club

It is often necessary for orienteers to go out alone into terrain (forest/moorland) on behalf of the Club, for mapping, planning, controlling, etc. Generally this occurs without incident. However, in a very small number of cases, an orienteer working alone in terrain has been injured and needed help. To reduce the risk of an injured orienteer not being found for many hours, with potentially severe consequences, EBOR is making a recommendation for all those who work alone on behalf of the club.

EBOR recommends that whenever anyone must work alone, in terrain, on behalf of the club they should:-

1. Leave details with a 'buddy' of which area they are visiting, when they aim to return and the phone they will carry.
2. As soon as the worker has safely left the terrain, they must phone their buddy and check in. #
3. If the buddy does not receive a call by the agreed time, they must attempt to phone the lone worker. If no response, the buddy must raise the alarm.
4. The buddy will generally be a friend or family member. Where this is not possible, contact the EBOR Committee (see the website) and they will provide a buddy.

What does the 'buddy' need to do?

1. Agree with the lone-worker who to contact, if it is necessary to raise an alarm. This may be the landowner, or if unavailable, call 112 for the Mountain Rescue or Police.
2. Agree with lone-worker a realistic return time (i.e. to leave an injured orienteer in the terrain for an absolute minimum time, but to limit the risk of false-alarms).
3. Be contactable by phone throughout the period of lone-working, until the worker has made contact.

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