

## **Risk assessments and Recces is one of the most frequently asked questions.**

The requirement for Risk Assessment and Recces has never changed.

Walking Routes must be risk assessed and updated every 6 months or sooner as required.

### **Who is responsible for the Risk Assessments?**

Walk Leaders are responsible for their own walking routes, in some areas teams of walk leaders work together and someone will take responsibility for this.

### **Do I have to write out a new Risk Assessment after 6 months?**

No, you can simply update it if the route and risks haven't changed, by adding a signature and a date.

### **Can I use Generic Risk Assessments?**

Yes, on the SASP website, we have produced a detailed and generic risk assessment which covers most eventualities. However, this must be tailored to your walking route, area of Somerset and any specific risks to your route not already identified.

### **I have multiple walking routes do I have to complete a risk assessment on every walk?**

Generic risk assessments can be used for multiple routes, providing they meet at the same meeting point, same level and are in enough detail covering all eventualities.

If you are unsure, please ask the health walks team.

### **What is a Recce?**

A Recce is a check as close to the start time as possible. A full recce should take place where possible, however part recces are accepted, for example on longer walks and taking into consideration the walk leaders' local knowledge of the walking route and area.

### **Do I need to submit my Risk Assessment and or Recce?**

Walk Leaders can hold their own Risk Assessments. Recces are not recorded, however, both inform the pre walk briefing.

In the event of an accident or incident on the walk the Risk Assessment along with the Attendance Register must be submitted with the Accident / Incident Report form.

### **Trainee Walk Leaders and Risk Assessments.**

Stage 3 of the Walk Leader Training is to plan a walk and complete a Risk Assessment. This must be submitted to the Health Walks Coordinator to assess for competence and give feedback. These are held as part of the training process.

**Risk Assessment Forms can be found here and completed by hand or electronically.**



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### **Why is this necessary?**

As a recognised walking scheme, Somerset Health Walks, offers walkers the chance to walk in a safe environment which has been deemed 'safe' by our walk leaders. We cannot remove all risks but, risks are removed to the lowest possible level.

Walkers choose to walk at their own risk and should be informed of potential risks at the pre walk briefing and highlighted during the walk where necessary.

Walk Leaders are protected by our insurance providing processes are followed and in the event of a walker making a claim against the walk leader or SASP.