

# Health and Safety, and Duty of Care - Why is it important?

There are 3 main reasons for being concerned with safety, health and welfare.

1. We want you to be safe. We want anyone who is involved in club/society, whoever they are, to leave the activity in the same state of health that they arrived in.
2. Legal considerations. We have to comply with health and safety legislation.
3. Financial considerations. Accidents and ill health cost money. Negligence and poor safety practice can lead to huge claims in the event of successful litigation.

## Duty of Care

Responsibility for health, safety and welfare of those attending lies not only with the organisation i.e. UEA and the Union but with you as Committee members. Each of us owes a "duty of care" to each other not to cause them injury by our negligent acts and omissions. In order to satisfy this duty of care you must behave as a "reasonable person" would, taking into account your specific skills, knowledge and experience. The duty of care requires you to consider the consequences of your acts and omissions and to ensure that they do not give rise to a foreseeable risk of injury to any other person.

As committee members of your club/society or as an individual you have accepted this responsibility and that your duty of care is greater than that of those attending any of your events.

Please ensure that you keep health and safety in mind in all your activities. Risk assessments must be completed and handed in for all activities, and if you are unsure about anything, please just contact the Student Union: Alun Minifey, Head of Student Opportunities [a.minifey@uea.ac.uk](mailto:a.minifey@uea.ac.uk) or the Events Coordinator