

24 January 2024

Guidelines on Emergency Action Plans and Upcoming National Framework to Strengthen Risk Management and Safety Standards in Outdoor Adventure Education Sector

A guide has been rolled out by the Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Council in January 2024, to help Singapore's OAE programme providers adopt best practices in managing emergencies.

2 The guide focuses on i) preparation for emergencies, ii) management of emergencies, and iii) follow-ups from emergencies. The guide is available on www.go.gov.sg/eapguide.

- i) Preparation for emergencies: This section provides crucial guidance on emergency planning and preparation before the undertaking of OAE programmes and operations, such as the establishment of an effective reporting and escalation process.
- ii) Management of emergencies: This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of various teams and individuals during the overall action plan.
- iii) Follow-up on emergencies: This section emphasises on proper documentation, including learning from incidents, and providing support for potential psychological trauma.

National Standard on Conduct of OAE Activities and Operations

3 In addition, a national standard to address safety in OAE activities and operations is currently being developed. Upon completion, the Singapore Standard for OAE Activities will cover land-based, water-based, and height activities. It will stipulate OAE providers' and activity instructors' accountabilities when conducting such activities, and the expected level of care and safety to be practised for safe participation.

4 Key stakeholders, comprising 17 organisational representatives from the sector, have been working together with the OAE Council to develop this standard. This is supported by the Singapore Manufacturing Federation – Standards Development Organisation (SMF-SDO) and the Singapore Standards Council (SSC),

which is overseen by Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG). The standard will be open for public feedback in the second half of the year and is expected to be published by 2025. The composition of the working group can be found in **Annex A**.

Support to Uplift Sectoral Competencies

5 The OAE sector can also look forward to support through resources, such as a comprehensive workforce development roadmap, and sector-level participation and incident data, which will help build competencies and capabilities of companies and the workforce. These will be made available by the first quarter of 2025.

6 At present, OAE providers and instructors offering height-based activities to students under the Ministry of Education (MOE) will need to adopt MOE's enhanced safety measures, which were published in November 2022 (<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20221128-progressive-resumption-of-height-based-activities-for-school-programmes-from-february-2023>).

7 David Chua, Co-Chair of the OAE Council and Chief Executive of the National Youth Council said: "Our OAE partners and instructors have a duty of care to their participants. It is imperative that we build a strong safety culture in the OAE sector. Service providers and key stakeholders are working closely with the OAE Council to enhance sectoral competencies and ensure safe and impactful outdoor education experiences."

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About the OAE Council

Established in September 2022 as an advisory body to the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), the OAE Council leads the review and tightening of safety standards, emergency management practices and professional development in the OAE sector. As part of the Council's role, it oversees the development of national standards for installation, operations, training, and certification of all OAE activities, and promote its adoption and compliance.

About the National Youth Council

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people between 15 to 35 years of age are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience, and an enterprising spirit.

ANNEX A

Composition of OAE Activities Standard Development Working Group

1.	Explora Pte Ltd
2.	Focus Adventure / Camp Challenge
3.	Forest School Singapore
4.	Innotrek Pte Ltd
5.	Institute of Technical Education
6.	Ministry of Education
7.	Outdoor Learning & Adventure Education (OLAE) Association
8.	Outward Bound Singapore
9.	People's Association
10.	Pivotal Learning Pte Ltd
11.	Republic Polytechnic
12.	Singapore Polytechnic
13.	Singapore Scout Association /Sands Leadership Devt Centre
14.	Singapore Sport Climbing & Mountaineering Federation
15.	Singapore University of Social Sciences
16.	Sport Singapore
17.	United World College