

MISSING WALKER PROTOCOL:

In The Event of a Walker

EITHER Fails to Return to Base OR Misses Two Checkpoints:

In the event of a Walker Failing to Return to Base:

A walker should take no more than about 2 hours to get back to base from Sugar Loaf Checkpoint (Platinum, Silver and Bronze routes) or Skirrid (Gold route) This is a guide only and some judgement is required as to when to classify a walker as 'late'. For example the weather conditions need to be considered.

In the event of a walker being classified as 'late' they will have an 'Amber' classification and an amber coloured sticker is to be applied to their Registration Sheet. The 'Amber' classification is a walker who is possibly missing. A walker classified as 'Amber' will have their entry number, name, etc. entered on the 'Amber List' attached. Any person on the communications desk may classify a person as 'Amber'. They must advise the person given the responsibility of overseeing Missing Walkers who will fill in the table.

Following a walker getting an Amber classification the following procedure must be followed:

1. Note walkers number, name and any contact phone number(s) on the 'Amber' list attached. In the 'Comments' column make a note as to why the person is considered as possibly missing.
2. Check the Registration Sheet to get any contact information. If the late walker pre-entered the Registration Sheet will also have a Reference Number which corresponds to the Entry Form. This Entry Form may have further useful contact information. The Entry Forms are stored in Reference Number order in the Entry Form Box Use the Reference Number to locate the Entry Form in the Entry Form Box. Phone walkers own mobile. At this stage only phone the home phone number if its not also the phone number of the next of kin.
3. If the missing walker's Registration Sheet shows Car Registration Number, note it and check the number plates of cars in the car park and if possible, local streets. If the car isn't found then assume the walker is still missing - the car may have been parked in a street not checked.

The walker is now classified as 'Red' and a red coloured sticker is applied to their Registration Sheet. The 'Red' classification means the walker is 'highly likely' to be missing. Any designated comms person can classify a person as 'Red'. However they must inform the person given the responsibility of overseeing Missing Walkers who will fill in the table. The Event Coordinator/Hut Supervisor must also be informed that a walker has been given this classification. Note walkers number, name and any contact phone number(s) on the 'Red' list attached. Also make a note in the 'Comments' column as to why the person is considered as possibly missing.

4. Check Database and Entry Form to see if missing walker was with a group. Also check car registrations to see if any other walkers were in the same vehicle as the missing person. If the lost walker was with a group then contact members of that group to see if they know of the whereabouts of the lost walker.
5. On the Checkpoint Arrival Timesheet of the last checkpoint the missing walker passed through look for walkers who passed through the checkpoint at the same time as the missing walker. Contact these walkers also - they may have talked with the missing walker and have information.
6. As an absolute last resort, contact the next of kin to see if they have heard from the missing walker. **Remember, if this is done unnecessarily it may cause extreme distress for the next of kin for no reason.**
7. Contact LMRT and ask if the mountain top checkpoints have any information on the late walker.
8. In all circumstances, if the walker is still missing the Event Coordinator **must** be informed. He/She will contact the Longtown Mountain Rescue Team to advise them we believe a walker is missing. They will advise on next action.

NB: Our primary responsibility is to ensure all walkers return safely. It is the Event Coordinator's responsibility to ensure all the team are aware of this Protocol and that the Team follow the procedure as set out.

In the event of a Walker Missing Two Checkpoints:

1. If a Checkpoint advises Base that a walker appears late then Base will check with the previous Checkpoint to see what time the walker went through. If a Walker has missed two Checkpoints then the next Checkpoint will be asked to look out for that person as a priority – if adjacent entry numbers arrive Checkpoint Marshalls to ask them if they have any information on the missing walker. If the walker arrives at the Checkpoint then the Marshalls must notify base straight away.
2. Using information available, decide a suitable time to initiate steps 1 to 7 above in 'Event of Walker Failing to return to Base'.

IF IN DOUBT, CHECK WITH THE EVENT COORDINATOR

