



# Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK

VOLUNTEERS WORKING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

## Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom Lone Working Procedures

The aim of these *Lone Working Procedures* is to ensure that there is always someone who knows where you are working so that you can be located and/or contacted in the event of an emergency. ARG UK strongly advises you to follow these procedures, but it is up to you to use them appropriately and responsibly.

- The *Lone Working Procedures* should be applied to situations where a person is working alone. Lone working should take place only if you are confident that you are safe and able to work alone.
- An assessment should be made of whether lone working is appropriate. Can the risks be minimised if more than one person is involved? Is the scope of the work such that it should not (or must not) be undertaken by a lone worker? The task needs to be assessed against our approach to undertaking Risk Assessments.
- For all lone working, a 'buddy system' should be operated, whereby a buddy is nominated and informed of:
  1. Location(s) of lone working (changes in itinerary need to be reported to the buddy).
  2. Reporting-in times or estimated time of arrival (the frequency of reporting-in should be determined on the basis of risk and changes of location).
  3. Contact details.
  4. Travel/vehicle details (particularly important in the event of requiring emergency assistance)
  5. The Emergency Procedure in the event of not calling in.
- This information may most usefully be supplied to the buddy on a *Lone Working Form* (below), which can be referred to in the event of an emergency.
- Any changes in itinerary should be communicated to the buddy; this may require leaving messages on answerphones or mobile phones (buddies should check for messages before implementing emergency procedures). A third party may also be used to convey a message.
- The lone worker is responsible for phoning ('reporting in') on time. Take account of the possibility of poor mobile phone reception, phones being lost or damaged, phone batteries running out, or that your buddy may be driving or doing some other activity that prevents them from using the mobile phone. A contingency must be in place for such events.

**Emergency procedures:** In the event of the lone worker not 'reporting in' the buddy should carry out the following:

- Telephone the lone worker on the number(s) given. If there is no response, leave a phone message with the time of the call, and state that the Lone Worker is overdue for reporting in.
- Repeat this after 15 minutes, and a third time up to one hour after the due reporting-in time. If there is still no response then the Buddy should exhaust all other options before calling the emergency services.
- If still unable to contact or locate the lone worker, the buddy should call the local police (use 999 only if you are sure there is an emergency, though it is better to err on the side of caution). The police should be advised of the *Lone Working Procedures*, the areas being visited, travel details, any known risks, reporting in times and any contact details; and they should leave a contact number should further information be required.
- If any other emergency services are involved, the buddy should also advise them of the details provided by the lone worker, notably the areas being visited, travel details, any known risks, reporting-in times and contact details.

Note: *Mobile phones should not be used while driving or undertaking certain activities.*

## ARG UK Lone Working Form

*This form can be completed to help your buddy in the event of needing to implement emergency procedures, or if information needs to be given to the emergency services. The Emergency Procedures are outlined on the back of this form. Please ensure that your buddy is familiar with them. You may also find it useful to keep a copy for yourself.*

Name of lone worker:

***In the event of failure to report in by the specified times, please follow the emergency procedures above.***

Contact details of lone worker:

Mobile phone

Overnight accommodation etc (if relevant)

Other contact

Home contact/phone no.

Name of buddy:

Contact details of buddy:

Date(s) of lone working:

Area(s) of lone working (details and grid references if possible):

Travel/vehicle details (including car registration number)

Known risks to inform the emergency services if the emergency procedures are implemented:

Reporting-in time(s):