

**Standard Operating Procedure - Use and Care of Safety Helmets – 002/05**

**Scope:** This procedure applies to all volunteers who undertake project activities within the Onkaparinga National Park and the Onkaparinga Recreation Park.

*Friends of Onkaparinga Park [FOOP]* will provide safety helmets to any volunteer who undertakes any FOOP project activity within the Parks that requires head protection; e.g. chainsaw and brush cutter use.

**Responsibility:** All Project Supervisors will ensure that volunteers that undertake the type of activities described above are issued with safety helmets that comply with *AS/NZS 1800: 1998*. The date of issue should be recorded.

**Authority:** The Australian Standard *AS/NZS 1800:1998 Occupational Protective Helmets - selection, care and use* advises that generally, helmet shells have a life of at least three years from the time of issue.

However, the components of harnesses are less durable and should be replaced at intervals of no longer than two years. Plastic components of harnesses may deteriorate more rapidly under aggressive service conditions and in these cases harnesses should be replaced at intervals not longer than 2 years. Infrequent use may extend the life of harnesses.

The user should examine the protective helmet on a regular basis and replace it if any damage is evident.

**Inspection and Maintenance:** Helmets may be cleaned using warm water and soap. The use of solvents, very hot water, or harsh abrasives is not advisable.

All safety helmet components and accessories should be visually inspected prior to use by the wearer, for signs of dents, cracks, penetration or other damage due to impact, rough treatment or unauthorised alterations which may reduce the degree of safety originally provided. Excessive discolouration of the shell colour or weathering of the surface may indicate a loss of strength.

Helmets showing damage or deterioration to the shell should be immediately withdrawn from service and discarded (completely destroyed). Helmets with sound shells but with damaged or defective harness components should be withdrawn from service and the complete harness and cradle replaced.

**Reissue of Safety Helmets:** No safety helmet should be reissued unless the helmet has been thoroughly cleaned and inspected. In general, when a helmet is being re-issued to a different person at least a new sweatband should be fitted.

**Implementation:** the FOOP Committee shall implement this procedure immediately upon authorisation.