

Standard Operating Procedure: Eye and Hearing Protection – 003/05

Scope: This procedure applies to all volunteers who carry out project activities in either the Onkaparinga Gorge National Park or the Onkaparinga Recreation Park.

Hazards/Risks: Eye injuries are a risk in activities undertaken by volunteers. Typical hazards/risks exist for eye injury due to the possibility of flying particles, dust and sharp objects such as woody weeds.

Further it is an established scientific fact that excessive noise can cause damage to hearing. Earmuffs/earplugs that meet the Australian Standard attenuate the noise dose level to 85dB[A].

Benefits: The purpose of eye and hearing protection is to ensure these two vital senses are preserved and protected.

Responsibility: Project Supervisors will ensure that all volunteers are issued with eye protection [AS/NZS 1336; 1997] and hearing protection [AS/NZS 1270; 1999] that complies with the Australian Standards highlighted in brackets.

Application: Friends Of Onkaparinga Park [*FOOP*] will provide specific eye and hearing protection to those volunteers who carry out project activities. To maximise the benefits of wearing eye and hearing protection, all volunteers are strongly encouraged to fit their goggles/glasses, earmuffs/earplugs prior to commencing work, and only remove when clear of any hazard/risk.

Eye protection should consist of either:

- .Safety spectacles,
- .Goggles with protective lenses and side shields, and/or
- .Face shields of transparent mesh.

Maintenance: Eye protection should be cleaned thoroughly with non-abrasive soap or detergent and warm water using a damp cloth, then rinse and dry. Avoid the use of any abrasive substance. Dry and polish washed lenses using tissues.

Earmuffs should be checked regularly for their clamping force [holds the cups against the head], the condition of ear cups and ear cushions, as well as the acoustic absorber inside the ear cups. Reusable earplugs may be cleaned by rinsing in warm soapy water and dried.

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