

WHAT TO DO IF A WALKER IS SERIOUSLY INJURED

INJURY: If there is a serious injury to a walker or illness such that they are unable to continue then as Walk Leader follow the procedures listed below:

1. **Danger** – Ensure that there is potentially no additional danger to the injured member or others in the group. This includes things like falling trees and rocks, rushing water and the rare snake bite.
2. **Respond** – stabilise the patient by following standard first aid procedures
 - a. Determine if there are walkers in the group with medical knowledge to assist you
 - b. Activate the club PLB if the injuries to the walker are life threatening and leave PLB with Walk Leader / Walkers assisting the injured party
 - c. After assigning a limited number of walkers to remain with the injured party move ALL of the remaining walkers a short distance away to inform them of the situation and next steps
 - d. Identify a walker in the group to act as Assistant Walk Leader and ask all other walkers to follow their instructions.
3. **Send for help** – At this point the official walk is ended and your responsibility is to get help for the injured member and ensure all the other walkers are safely escorted back to the cars.
 - a. Using your topomap, GPS device or cellular phone determine your GRID REF location (6 digit number) and record it in writing. You could also save a screen grab from your phone.
 - b. Determine if there is cellular phone coverage.
 - c. If there is cellular phone service, call 000 and give the operator the following information:
 - i. State you are with the BBBW on a walk and have an injured party
 - ii. Description of the injuries to the walker and what first aid is being provided
 - iii. GRID REF and Map Sheet name where the party has stopped
 - iv. Relevant topographic features such as: Road name, CPT name, trig station, creek, or state if the location is off-track in the bush
 - v. Identify the number of walkers in the group and how many are leaving with the Assistant Walk Leader and how many are staying with the injured party.
 - vi. If you have deployed the PLB inform the 000 operator.
 - d. Using the topomap or club walk map determine the most efficient route for the Assistant Walk Leader to escort the walkers back to the cars. Note; this may not be the original proposed walk track especially if other roads can be used to ensure a quick and safe exit.
 - e. Mark the map with the proposed escape route and the location of the injured party and inform the walkers of the proposed actions to be taken by the group.
 - f. The Assistant Walk Leader should then:
 - vii. Ensure the Walk Leader has sufficient emergency supplies including water, sugar and space blankets in case they have to remain in the bush overnight
 - viii. Appoint a tail-end-charlie and start moving the group back to the cars
 - ix. If there was NO cellular phone coverage at the injury site periodically check for phone coverage and once connected call the 000 operator with the details listed in points i – vi above
 - x. If no cell phone connection can be made before reaching the cars drive until a signal can be made and call the 000 operator.
 - xi. Ask all drivers to reassemble at the CP and ensure all walkers are accounted for
 - xii. Contact the BBBW Walks Organizer, Assistant Walk Organizer or President and inform them of the situation and note which walkers have been returned and which walkers remain with the injured party.

BBBW club members who attended the walk are asked to refer all media requests to the club secretary to ensure the privacy of the injured party.