

Field Safety Basics at the Harvard Forest: Staff & Summer Program Students

Have a plan

- Navigation – maps, compass, GPS
- Be aware of severe storms – check the weather radar (storm tracks typically move west to east, or sometimes south to north)
- Cell phone reception is not reliable
- If you are working on Harvard Forest land, bring a radio (check out in mail room)
- Don't work alone, or if you must, tell someone your plan: where, when do you expect to return, and check in when you return. You may also use the Harvard Forest Solo e-mail list; if you do so, send a message indicating your field location and estimated time of return AND *be sure to send a follow-up message when you return* (or we will come look for you) <hfsolo@fas.harvard.edu>)
- Pack a small first-aid kit (there are also first-aid kits in all Harvard Forest vehicles)

Prevent tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease

- Cover up: wear long sleeves and pants; light colors make ticks easier to spot; tuck pants into socks
- Use repellent, and check yourself for ticks daily
- More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/tick-bites-prevention.html>

Be aware of poison ivy

- Poison ivy can be a small plant or a climbing vine
- If you make contact: wash clothes in hot water; wash skin with detergent or poison ivy soap



Wildlife

- Never approach or feed wildlife; give animals lots of space
- Report unusual behavior (for example, an animal that approaches you)

Hunting season

- Although hunting some animals happens all year, deer season (October – December) is the main time hunters are encountered. Hunting season dates for Massachusetts: <http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/summary-hunting-season-dates/>. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.
- Hunting is allowed on most of Harvard Forest land
- During deer hunting season, please wear blaze orange. There are orange vests available to check out from the field equipment room.

Field etiquette

- Stay on trails
- Pack out trash (seal toilet paper in a plastic bag)
- Be aware that Harvard Forest hosts hundreds of research projects; avoid walking through areas with flagging, tags, and other infrastructure.