

Health and Safety

Toad patrolling is an immensely rewarding activity with potential to help toads locally and to provide crucial data that can feed into national monitoring initiatives. However, toad patrolling is a potentially dangerous volunteer activity and any attempts to prepare a crossing should be fully risk assessed beforehand and insurance should be sought.

If you have any concerns about safety on a road, under no circumstances should you undertake a Toad Patrol. Your local council might be able to help on these roads by providing signs, or occasionally, by installing tunnels / other mitigation measures. Contact Froglife if this is the case.

PROCEDURES FOR TOAD PATROLLING

1. DO NOT undertake or take part in a Toad Patrol without first undertaking a full Risk Assessment.
2. DO NOT undertake or take part in a Toad Patrol without first taking out insurance for you and your patrollers (see below).
3. YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION to undertake or take part in a Toad Patrol. If you are uncertain or have concerns about undertaking or taking part, under no circumstances should you continue.
4. CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE SHOULD ONLY TAKE PART IN A TOAD PATROL IN THE PRESENCE OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. Vulnerable persons taking part will also require specialised supervision.
5. REFLECTIVE CLOTHING should be worn and a TORCH should be carried at all times.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Before starting a Toad Patrol it is vital that you identify the risks involved by doing a Risk Assessment. If you do not undertake this you might be liable should an accident occur to you, other patrollers or passing traffic. The Patrol Pack contains a



sample Risk Assessment which outlines some example dangers that might occur at a toad crossing and which you need to control for. You must visit the site and fill in the blank Risk Assessment, also provided, evaluating and specifying how you will control for site dangers that might occur there. If you have any further questions please get in touch.

INSURANCE

As a Froglife volunteer you and your Patrollers are covered for Personal Accident Insurance under Froglife's insurance policy. All you need to do is **get each Patroller to read the appropriate Health and Safety information ('Procedures for toad patrolling' above), your Risk Assessment and Method of Work, and sign a declaration form.** ALL patrollers must sign a form and return it to us otherwise they WILL NOT be covered. Declaration forms can be downloaded from the website or can be posted on request.

ARG UK (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK - www.arguk.org) also has an insurance scheme which covers Toad Patrolling. Individual ARGs need to sign up to this scheme for their members to be insured. Check with your ARG representative to find out if your group is affiliated.

IDEAS FOR SAFE WORKING

Good preparation...

- If you don't have a rota, try to get volunteers to 'book' on so that you have some idea of numbers each evening.
- Make sure you have enough high-vis clothing for all volunteers, or that they bring their own, and that it is well maintained – it won't work if it gets dirty!
- If your crossing is particularly large, try to make sure you have one or more experienced Patrollers around to help manage each evening.
- Always visit the site in daytime before the start of the season, even if you think you're relatively familiar with the site. Check how easy it is to walk along the collection and release areas; clear vegetation if necessary.



On patrol nights...

- If you are patrolling alone ensure you have let somebody know where you are and let them know when you are home safely. Always carry a fully charged mobile phone.
- Try to have a car park/meet point away from the road and toad crossing where you can safely brief and equip your volunteers. Sign a safe route (off the carriageway) from here to the toad crossing; if this isn't possible, make sure you walk as a group on the roadside facing oncoming traffic, wearing your hi-vis clothing.
- Don't keep your Risk Assessment a secret! Get all volunteers to read it and highlight any particular hazards and how to avoid them.
- Make sure your volunteers are dressed for the weather and terrain and have torches or head torches.
- Think about setting up additional road signs - 'Toad Patrol', 'People on the road', etc. Make sure they are at a distance that gives motorists plenty of warning; if possible have two sets - one in each direction. You may need to seek the Council's permission to display signs, check first.
- To try and avoid pedestrian/vehicle collisions get Patrollers to cross in groups, either by having experienced volunteers leading groups or by having designated crossing points at the safest places.
- Count your volunteers in and out - we don't leave our Toad Patrollers behind!
- The patrol coordinator should carry/have access to a fully charged mobile phone and, ideally, a first aid kit.

