

## Safety resources for doing fieldwork

- Accessing land: In Minnesota, you cannot access streams that are on private property. See links for public access areas.
  - [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water\\_access/counties.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water_access/counties.html)
  - <https://mnatlas.org/resources/public-water-access/>
  - Info on water laws and trespassing:
    - [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/pwpermits/waterlaws.html#:~:text=The%20general%20public%20can%20access,under%20the%20state%20trespass%20laws.](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/waterlaws.html#:~:text=The%20general%20public%20can%20access,under%20the%20state%20trespass%20laws.)
- Winter weather considerations:
  - <https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter>
  - [https://www.weather.gov/wrn/infographics\\_winter](https://www.weather.gov/wrn/infographics_winter)
  - <https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather>
  - Info on Hypothermia: [https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hypothermia/symptoms-causes/syc-20352682#:~:text=Hypothermia%20is%20a%20medical%20emergency,95%20F%20\(35%20C\).](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hypothermia/symptoms-causes/syc-20352682#:~:text=Hypothermia%20is%20a%20medical%20emergency,95%20F%20(35%20C).)
- Water/field safety:
  - <https://www.cfins.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Construction-Field-Work-in-Cold-Weather.pdf>
  - Do not get closer than necessary to the water's edge! Many streams have deep undercut banks with loose vegetation, snow, or earth hanging over. This means if you stand on them, you can easily fall into the stream because the banks may be hollow underneath.
  - Be aware of your footing near streams and rivers. Always place feet on a solid surface.
  - Never stand on ice.
- Go with buddies!!
  - Never do fieldwork alone! Always go with a buddy!
  - Share the time you will leave, where you plan to be, and when you plan to return with a friend or family member who is not coming with you so they know where you and your group are and when you plan to be back.
  - Consider that being out in remote areas may not be safe for minoritized individuals based on their race, sexuality, gender identity or expression, primary spoken language, citizenship status etc. If you are concerned about [identity prejudice](#) while being out in certain areas (e.g., remote or rural) don't go or go with someone else who knows the area. If you have any reservations about an area, don't go. Calling for law enforcement if something should happen may also make the situation less safe.
- Links to local weather information: <https://www.weather.gov/mpx/>
  - Can search city or address to find local forecast.