

CARBONATE SYSTEMS AND CORAL REEFS OF THE BAHAMAS (GEOLOGY 270j)

SAFETY IN THE FIELD

In the field always use common sense, good judgment, alertness, and a thoughtful and responsible behavior, while following these straightforward safety rules:

1. Wear appropriate field shoes and clothes.

Fieldwork on rough terrains in tropical climates requires adequate footwear such as study sneakers or light boots. Open sandals are not recommended. To protect yourself from the sun wear white or light colored clothing and a hat, use sunglasses, sunscreen, and drink frequently. Use rain gear as protection against possible heavy downpours. Use insect repellent to protect yourself against insect bites.

2. Use the right equipment and use it properly.

Use hard-steel hammers with a square head. Hammers should only be used on rock corners that stand a chance of being knocked off. Do not indiscriminately hammer, and do not swing the hammer wildly. Do not hammer at rocks above your head. Use downward blows, and ensure no one is standing close to you. Do not use a hammer to strike another hammer.

3. Avoid risky situations and do not put others at risk.

Be especially aware of unstable cliff tops and falling rocks. Do not climb outcrops with others below you. Avoid walking and climbing on slick or slippery surfaces, and under or on top of unstable or overhanging cliffs. Never roll rocks down slopes and never throw them off the top of cliffs. Do not excavate at the base of sand or mud cliffs that might slump.

4. Safety in the water.

While swimming and snorkeling in the shallow marine nearshore environment you must strictly adhere to the "buddy system" and each person should evaluate every situation in relation to their own capabilities in the water. You must use buoyancy snorkeling vests at all times while in the water.

For more information see: Planning for Field Safety, 1992, by American Geological Institute, Alexandria, Virginia, 197 p.