

Sedgwick Rules and Safety Information for RESEARCHERS

Revised June 2020

Access

This document lays out expectations and guidelines for researchers, faculty, class participants and field assistants with approval to use Sedgwick for research under Stage 3-5 COVID restrictions. These “non-exempt users” are expected to:

1. Make advanced reservation using the UCNRS online reservation system (<http://rams.ucnrs.org>)
2. Ensure that everyone listed in a RAMS reservation has filled out a liability waiver (located [online](#)).
3. Establish a safety plan that includes equipment, a safety buddy and a daily check-in/check-out system;
4. Observe posted speed limits to minimize dust and protect wildlife;
5. Protect the Reserve’s security by not sharing the gate code;
6. Follow rules and safety guidelines outlined in this document;

Facilities

SEDGWICK RESERVE (3566 Brinkerhoff Ave, Santa Ynez, CA 93460) is one of seven NRS Reserves administered by UC Santa Barbara. The property encompasses two intact watersheds encompassing 5980 acres and is located 15 miles east of Los Olivos in the Santa Ynez Valley. Administrative and lodging facilities are located in a ten-acre Field Station.

DAY USE: A roadside check-in table and outhouse bathroom have been set up next to the Tipton Meeting House. Drive by the check in table to scan a QR code with your smart phone to sign in. You may also pick up a map and borrow a safety kit. Hand sanitizer is available next to the outhouse, which is cleaned daily and serviced weekly. These are the only facilities available to day-users, so plan your field trips accordingly.

OVERNIGHT USE. Use RAMS to request access to kitchen facilities, overnight accommodations and office / lab space.

Researchers can access password-free WiFi coverage outside the Tipton Meeting House and ranch house where there is shady parking. There is also now wireless at the front gate: Network: **GateToo** Password **NoFigMtnView**

Protection of Research Sites

To ensure the integrity of research sites, we ask that all users to care not to trample (drive over, walk on or ride horses through) research sites or remove stakes, pipes, flags, traps, and other miscellaneous items that may belong to researchers.

To further protect the integrity of Sedgwick for research, we ask our users to take great care to prevent the introduction of weeds, animals, insects, pathogens or other foreign species onto the Reserve. This is best done by power washing the undercarriages of vehicles and trailers, and equipment before coming onto the Reserve.

Rules and Regulations

- Smoking is prohibited on the reserve except in personal vehicles.
- No dogs are permitted at Sedgwick, except for resident’s pets, and dogs working cattle under the direct supervision of the cattle tenant.
- Park in designated parking areas; not in tall grass- catalytic converters can start fires.
- Gates must be left as they were found (e.g., if a gate is closed and locked, close and lock it after passing).
- Do not disturb reserve operations, residents, livestock, or other experiments.
- Report trespassers, vandalism, loose cows, unusual wildlife sightings, etc. to the office.
- Be vigilant and use extreme caution when using the Reserve during fire season. Report smoke/fires and any suspicious behavior to 911 and the Sedgwick Office.

CoVid19 Guidelines

1. RESEARCH VISITS must obtain **advanced authorization from UC Natural Reserve System's COVID Advisory Committee** to come to Sedgwick to complete work deemed essential during the campus CoVid19 closure.
2. **RAMS reservation requests must contain detailed information about intended routes of travel, safety plans for how you will maintain CDC recommended precautions and accurate scheduling of arrival and departure times.**
3. Those who receive authorization are asked to **use remote communication** (QR Code scanning or texting) to inform **Kate McCurdy (805) 729-7981** and/or **Lyza Johnsen (805) 610-4285** of their arrival and departure.
4. **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) including face masks (N-95 or cloth) are required** along with adherence to CDC guidelines on social distancing and personal hygiene.
5. Researchers should **plan for self-sufficiency** by bringing their own 1st aid kit, fire extinguisher and shovel, food that does not require kitchen preparation, and hand sanitizer.
6. Sedgwick staff has adopted **enhanced cleaning protocols** to disinfect door knobs, the gate keypad and shared bathroom spaces daily. Individuals are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to clean surfaces they come in contact with before and after touching them (e.g. the gate keypad).

Closures

During Red Flag Warnings, Heat Advisories and other periods of elevated fire risk, roads will be closed and locked. Access to the Reserve during these elevated risk periods may be authorized by the Reserve Director contingent on the following preparations:

- Anyone traveling on the Reserve in a vehicle with a catalytic converter must have a fire extinguisher and shovel with them.
- It will be strongly recommended that work is done early in the day before peak heat hours and users take steps to prepare for the heat (see below).
- While maintaining communication with a safety buddy or Reserve staff.

When roads are open, 4-wheel drive, high clearance vehicles are recommended for travel on all roads except the Lisque Creek Road and the lower Figueroa Creek Road, which are passable in a passenger car under most conditions.

Off-road vehicle travel is prohibited without the Reserve Director's authorization.

Following periods of >.20" of rain, the reserve roads (except for the improved main road from the Brinkerhoff gate to the Field Station) will be closed and locked. Check with the Reserve Director prior to a scheduled trip for road condition advisories and possible restriction on vehicle travel.

Emergency Contact Information

In case of Emergency, **dial 911** from your cell phone. In case of emergency, high points such as ridgelines almost always have cell coverage.

After summoning help, initiate our emergency phone tree by calling until you reach a Sedgwick staffer. **Kate McCurdy (805) 729-7981**. **Lyza Johnson (805) 610-4285**.

Emergency: 911

Campus Dispatch (non-emergency): 805-893-3446

Natural Reserve System Office: (805) 893-4127

Code of Conduct – UC Natural Reserve System

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

- All participants, visitors, staff, students, faculty, and vendors are to be treated with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- Respect for each other and the land is required.
- Our small staff does not include janitorial personnel. Please clean up after yourself and your work site.
- Alert station or campus personnel if you notice a dangerous situation or someone in distress.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Harassment, intimidation or discrimination in any form.
- Physical or verbal abuse of any participants, visitors, staff, students, faculty, vendors, neighbors, or other Field Station guests.
- Verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin.
- Unwelcome physical contact.
- Inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in Field Station spaces.
- Threatening or stalking any participants, visitors, staff, students, faculty, vendors, neighbors, or other Field Station guests.

CAMPUS CONDUCT RESOURCES

UCSB Campus Advocacy Resources and Education (CARE): (805) 893-3778 UCSB Ombuds Office: (805) 893-3285
UCSB Title IX & Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office: (805) 893-2701

Prepare for Sedgwick's Harsh Environment

Prolonged exposure to the heat during high temperatures (above 90 degrees) can be dangerous and result in heat related illnesses. Work should be done early and late in the day during summer months. Basic expectations for summer safety include:

- Wear close-toed shoes
- Carry at least one quart (4 cups) required per person per hour
- Wear long-sleeved, light colored shirts (preferably a sun-shirt with SPF)
- Wear a high-SPF sunscreen
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Bring an umbrella if you are working in an exposed area that lacks natural shade

FIRST AID

There is a basic first aid kit in the cabinet under the map in the Tipton lobby. Bring your own kit if you need more specific items or medications. There is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) hanging in the lobby of the Tipton Meeting House.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Because Sedgwick Reserve is a wildland environment located some distance from urban facilities, precautions for potential hazards should be taken, similar to those for a back-country hike. The nearest medical facility is the **Santa Ynez Cottage Hospital, 700 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang (805-688-6431)**. In the event of an emergency **call 911** and notify the reserve director or any available reserve staff.

Potential hazards include, but are not limited to, the following:

Rugged Terrain. Sedgwick is a wildland environment. There are downed logs, unstable rocks, steep slopes, cliffs, ground squirrel holes, steep and narrow roads, and many other potential hazards. Use caution and good judgment.

Rattlesnakes. The Reserve is home to a wide assortment of snakes, but only one species is poisonous, the Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*). The western rattlesnake is common throughout the Reserve from March to November. It is found in grassland, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, gray pine forests and around buildings.

Use extreme caution when reaching to places not readily visible and hiking over rocks, logs, or in tall grass. Long pants and hiking boots are recommended. Carry a cell phone.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE, HANDLE OR MOVE RATTLESNAKES. Leave them alone and they will leave you alone.

Poison Oak. Not uncommon in riparian areas and shaded north-facing slopes. Easily avoided. If exposed to the leaves or stem of a poison oak plant (even if the plant is barren of foliage) wash affected areas with dish soap or Tech-Nu.

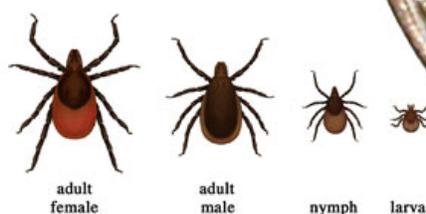
Mountain Lions. The Sedgwick Reserve is ideal mountain lion habitat and we frequently see evidence of their presence (tracks, freshly killed deer carcasses). While the threat of a lion attack on a human is extremely unlikely, it remains a possibility where people and lions co-exist. Avoid hiking alone, make noise and if confronted, throw things and yell. Do not run.

Ticks. Ticks in Santa Barbara County can carry Lyme disease. Routine body-checks for ticks are advised. If bitten, monitor symptoms and consult with a physician. Ticks are especially common in spring and summer but can be picked up throughout the year.

Hantavirus. Deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) are common in the Santa Ynez Valley a small percentage of which are known to carry the HARDS virus which stands for Hantavirus Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. The virus is one of a family of viruses carried by rodents and communicable to humans.



Blacklegged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



It is very important that Reserve users help reduce and avoid contact between users of the reserve and mice **in the following ways:**

- **Keep kitchen and dining areas clean**
- Store food and dishes in closed cabinets
- Wipe down countertops after every use
- Take trash and food garbage to the bins by the front gate daily
- Keep doors to the outside closed
- Do not eat or leave food in bunk rooms
- **Report any signs of rodent infestations**

Symptoms of Hantavirus infection: HARDS first manifests itself as mild flu-like symptoms (muscle ache, slight fever, and lethargy), usually two to six weeks after exposure to the virus. Acute respiratory distress may follow. If you experience flu-like symptoms and believe you may have had contact with rodents within the last 30 days, contact your physician immediately or go to the emergency room.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact. Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent hand washing, maintaining physical distance from others, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and keeping unwashed hands away from the face. Those infected with the virus may develop flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, body aches, fatigue, and shortness of breath. On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should alert their supervisor and self-isolate. Seek medical attention if you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing.

