NASA Earth Science Division's Commitment to Increasing Safety in the Field

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Introduction

- **NASA's Earth Science Division leadership has created a task team to address campaign physical and mental safety, with the goal of providing all participants in NASA field campaign research with an environment that promotes research, safety, inclusivity, and a positive experience.**



ESD Field Campaign Safety (FCS) Working Group



- **Field campaign safety is applicable to:**
  - All science focus areas
  - All project sizes
  - Platforms (e.g., airborne, ship, ground-based)
  - Field Locations (e.g., urban, suburban, remote)
  - All participants
- **FCS Goal**
  - To address campaign physical and mental safety, with the goal of providing all participants in NASA field campaign research with an environment that promotes research, safety, inclusivity, and a positive experience

NASA's Commitment to Mission Success

NASA is committed to maintaining an environment of trust, built upon honesty, ethical behavior, respect, and candor

Safety—We are committed, individually and as a team, to protecting the safety and health of the public, our team members, and those assets that the Nation entrusts to the Agency.

Integrity—NASA is committed to maintaining an environment of trust, built upon honesty, ethical behavior, respect, and candor.

Inclusion—NASA is committed to a culture of diversity, inclusion, and equity, where all employees feel welcome, respected, and engaged.



Excellence—NASA is committed to nurturing an organizational culture in which individuals make full use of their time, talent, and opportunities to pursue excellence in conducting all agency efforts.

Teamwork—We are committed to creating an environment that fosters teamwork and processes that support equal opportunity, collaboration, continuous learning, and openness to innovation and new ideas.

Accomplishments

- **Organized a Town Hall at AGU23 with senior leadership from NASA Science Mission Directorate and Office of Chief Scientist spoke to importance and challenges of ensuring a safe field environment**
- **Establishment of best practices document now being adopted in current missions (website forthcoming)**



BEST PRACTICES FOR NASA EARTH SCIENCES FIELD CAMPAIGNS

In all projects and campaigns, the teams consist of a mix of NASA scientists and partners from national and international universities and research centers. It's important to highlight that whenever team members are involved in field work sponsored by the NASA Earth Science Division (ESD), they are representing both NASA and the United States of America. Therefore, it is expected that all team members, regardless of their position within the team hierarchy, follow the outlined best practices. These best practices apply to everyone participating in the field activities.

These best practices have been compiled* from existing NASA field work teams that have laid the groundwork for adopting an ESD-wide policy for teams performing field work and field deployments.

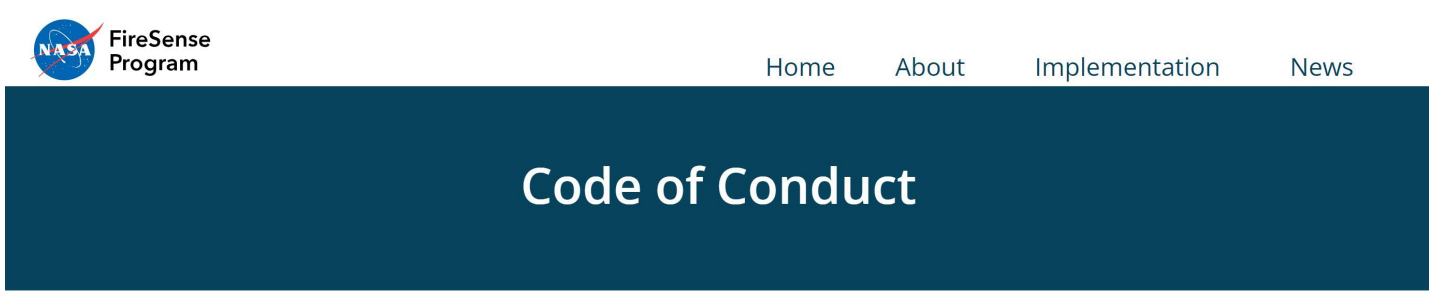
Broadly speaking, it is the expectation that each team member treats others with respect, honesty, and courtesy. Be mindful of your colleagues and work environment. Refrain from and actively discourage bullying, intimidating, threatening, abusive, discriminatory, derogatory, or demeaning behavior.

Examples of behavior that contribute to a positive environment include but are not limited to:

a. Giving and gracefully accepting constructive feedback.
b. Being respectful of differing opinions, viewpoints, and experiences.
c. Listening to the perspectives of others and refraining from interrupting.
d. Actively enabling broad participation by noticing who is speaking up and who may not have yet had an opening to contribute.

Accomplishments (2)

- **Guidelines for development of "agreement of behaviors" document for field teams adapted for missions (see, e.g., FireSense Code of Conduct)**



Note: All FireSense participants must download, read and sign this document prior to engaging in any FireSense field campaign activities. Download Here.

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) embraces inclusion as one of its core values. SMD is dedicated to using a multi-pronged approach that brings systemic and lasting change in this area by fostering inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility across all elements of work through dedicated activities and sustained engagement.

FireSense leadership is committed to providing safe, welcoming, and productive environments in the field, the lab, and at meetings and conferences. Members of the FireSense mission team are expected to follow this code of conduct. The FireSense Code of Conduct "rejects discrimination and harassment by any means, based on factors such as ethnic or national origin, race, religion, citizenship, language, political or other opinion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, age, or economic class." This Code also includes information on expected

Ongoing Activities

- **Online training module for field campaign participation: under development**
  - **Funding commitment from ESD leadership**
  - **Interactions with NASA HQ Learning & Development Branch and initial storyboarding concepts**

- **NASA ESD ROSES solicitation requirements for FCS**
  - **Develop specific field campaign safety language in Appendix A.1 of annual ROSES solicitation (goal: inclusion in ROSES-26), modeling on already implemented Planetary Science Division's Ethics in Fieldwork Team work for Appendix C.1**
  - **See also Melissa Kirven-Brooks' poster in session U51B, "New NASA Planetary Science Division ROSES Requirements for Ethics in Fieldwork: Moving Beyond Permits and Building Relationships"**