SOME USEFUL RESOURCES

General information
DMP, Prospecting and exploring in Western Australia

DMP, Old mine workings – stay out and stay alive

Communications devices
Australian Maritime Safety Authority beacons.amsa.gov.au

Bushwalking Victoria, Communications for Bushwalkers

Bush Search and Rescue, Victoria bsar.org/equipment

Weather
Bureau of Meteorology, Forecasts and warnings
www.bom.gov.au


River conditions, floods and fire
Bureau of Meteorology, Rainfall and river conditions

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of Western Australia
www.dfes.wa.gov.au

North Australian Fire Information
www.flyingdoctor.org.au/handling-yourhealth

DMP, Mines Safety Matters - Travelling in remote locations

Emergency services
Royal Flying Doctor Service
www.flyingdoctor.org.au

West Australian Police
www.police.wa.gov.au

Travelling in remote areas

Before you start prospecting you must:
- Have a current Miner's Right that apply to prospecting
- Be aware of the relevant parts of the Mining Act 1978

Before accessing such areas you need to:
- Know the type of land on which you are prospecting, and get the appropriate authorisation and permission. A breach of the Act can incur a penalty of up to $150,000 for an individual or $300,000 for a body corporate.
- Notify the pastoralist if you intend to prospect on a pastoral lease (and in certain cases, you may need written consent)
- Have written permission from the tenement holder if you are prospecting on a specified granted ExplorationLicences
- Have a current Section 40E Permit, in addition to a Miner's Right, to access granted mining tenement

When prospecting it is important to:
- Not remove more than 20 kilograms of samples
- Not undertake strip mining
- Notify the tenement and land holders when you are arriving and leaving
- Avoid damage to property and livestock
- Protect the environment by filling all holes, removing all rubbish, and leaving the area clean and tidy

Remember that under the Mining Act it is an offence to mine or explore on any land in Western Australia without appropriate authorisation and permission. A breach could incur a penalty of up to $150,000 for an individual or $300,000 for a body corporate.

You need to:
- Research the terrain to minimise risks.
- Be aware of what you need to do or carry to be safe before venturing into an area.
- Take some form of telecommunications and a global positioning system to fix locations.
- Carry a Personal Location Beacon (PLB). This could turn out to be your most important piece of safety equipment. Please read the article below.

The case for using Personal Locator Beacons

If he had been carrying a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), he may well be alive today.

The Coroner's Court heard police evidence about the facts of this tragic case. It was so compelling when travelling in remote Australia that the Coroner recommended that all individuals lost or stranded in the bush.

The PLB is a small device that, when activated, is used by rescuers to pinpoint its location. Coordinates transmitted by the PLB are transmitted via satellite to emergency services. The PLB is one of the many modern technologies that can save lives and should be considered as an important part of your safety equipment when venturing into remote areas.

If you are new to prospecting, it is recommended that you seek information and advice from experienced prospectors about their field equipment. Prospecting and metal detecting clubs are other useful sources of information.

You should also seriously consider:
- Carrying a Personal Location Beacon (PLB). This could turn out to be your most important piece of safety equipment. Please read the article below.
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This publication is available on request in other formats for people with special needs.

NRS: 13 36 77

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Telephone: +61 8 9358 8154
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FAILSAFE First

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STAY IN TOUCH AND STAY ALIVE!
PLANNING A TRIP

A lot of effort is given to identifying a prospective area, obtaining a Miner’s Right and getting the land holder’s permission to prospect or fossick. The next steps are just as vital for every trip you take, regardless of the length of time away, location, and your level of experience. Communication is the key.

You should plan trips according to your experience level. It is often safer to travel with others or as part of a larger group. There are many prospecting and 4WD clubs or associations that can provide support and information, which will help build skills.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Let people know where you are going and how long you expect to be away.

Ask someone reliable to be your home contact. Leave them copies of maps marked with roads you are likely to use and potential camp sites in the areas where you will be prospecting.

You should also provide the home contact with the details of the vehicles and people involved in the prospecting trip, including any mobile or satellite telephone numbers.

Consider having scheduled call times as a way to indicate that you are alright. Always call when you are back from your trip.

Agree on a back-up plan so it is clear when the alarm will be raised if a scheduled call is missed.

Be familiar with the use of your chosen communication devices before leaving home.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

There are many communication and location devices available to the prospector.

You are strongly encouraged to use a satellite-based device because telecommunication networks may not cover the area you are in and charging mobile phone batteries may be an issue. These devices can be purchased or hired.

A personal locator beacon (PLB) is also highly recommended. PLBs can be purchased from most quality outdoor stores. When activated, this small, portable and inexpensive device transmits a message via a satellite to the emergency services. The coordinates transmitted are used by rescuers to pinpoint the location of the person. PLBs should not be confused with global positioning systems (GPS) devices, which also use satellites to locate a position on the ground, but do not transmit location information to emergency services.

Other satellite-based systems include satellite phones and personal satellite tracking systems. The personal satellite tracking systems can help one-way communication in the field by sending pre-prepared messages via a satellite-based provider. Locators can be tracked using the internet. Some have emergency alert functions but these may have time delays attached.

IN THE FIELD

Being on foot away from the vehicle and the camp can pose new issues for a prospector. You are exposed to the effects of climate, terrain and how the land is being used. It is recommended that you:

- have an emergency kit (e.g. matches, whistle, mirror, thermal blanket)
- wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the conditions
- have a PLB and communications device on you at all times
- carry adequate water and food for the trip (4-6 litres of water per person per day, more in hot or humid conditions)
- have a suitable first aid kit and the medications you need

The advice is simple:

STAY IN TOUCH AND

STAY ALIVE!