

HEALTH, SAFETY, SECURITY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2024-2025 REPORT

Committee chair: Aileen Loftin

Committee vice chair: Sharon Teebenny

Committee members: Gokhan Alkir, Luke Decker, Kevin Bohacs, Tiffany Carey, Huw James, Christy Nandlal, Mary Oladiran, Ahmed Rushdy

Board liaison: Joseph Ebeniro

Staff liaison: Vanessa Medina

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) Committee continued advancing SEG's HSSE initiatives to support members across all activities. Key efforts included updating the HSSE Wiki and Toolkit with new content on health and wellness, safety, ethics, and sustainability; collaborating with the Field Camp Committee to strengthen field safety practices; and reviewing all field camp applications to provide feedback and share lessons learned.

The committee also delivered the Field Safety Leadership Course in a new hybrid format to 14 participants, emphasizing preparation, prevention, and response for field activities. Looking ahead, priorities include implementing a social media campaign to highlight HSSE resources and exploring a student competition to develop an HSSE app to track incidents and hazards.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

HSSE Toolkit (SEG HSSE Wiki)

The committee continued expanding the HSSE Toolkit to support all SEG members across activities, events, and meetings. Documents were updated to strengthen HSSE practices throughout SEG programs. The following content was added:

- **Health and wellness:** Fatigue management
- **Safety and security:** Journey management
- **Field camp toolkit:**
 - Field camp timetable template
 - SEG Seismic Soundoff podcast – Episode 146: Safety is not a priority (and other rules for the field)
- **Environmental impact and sustainability:** SEG Global Sustainability Lectures 2024-2025 by Ron Harris
- **Ethics:**
 - Human trafficking awareness
 - SEG Seismic Soundoff podcast – Episode 240: Navigating geoethics: Balancing science and responsibility in geosciences

Field Camp Application HSSE Plan Review

The committee supported the Field Camp Committee by reviewing all field camp applications and incorporating lessons learned to improve future guidelines. The HSSE Committee reviewed and provided feedback on 14 field camp HSSE plans. Seven applications were selected for funding, and the committee worked with those applicants to further refine their safety plans.

Field Camp Safety Statistics

The committee continued analyzing safety statistics from field camps. No major incidents occurred in 2025. Committee member Kevin Bohacs compiled a summary of field camp safety statistics from the past four years. With SEG's support, this summary will be included in the second edition of the Geological Society of America (GSA) Field Safety Book (first published by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 2005).

The 2024 Field Camp report is available on the SEG Field Camp website.

Summary of 2024 data:

- Four serious injuries due to pre-existing conditions, falls, crush injuries, and fainting
- Thirteen first-aid-only incidents (seven occurred at one field camp)
- No incidents reported in three of seven camps
- Compared with 2023, there was an 11% decrease in participants and a 200% increase in incidents (from two to four)
- From 2021-2024, 13 of 33 field camps reported no incidents or injuries

Field Safety Leadership Course

The Field Safety Leadership Course was delivered in a new hybrid format, engaging 14 participants. Led by committee member Kevin Bohacs on a pro bono basis, the course combined comprehensive pre-course materials with live virtual sessions in May. Participants received customizable handouts, forms, and instructional videos emphasizing preparation, prevention, and response to strengthen field safety leadership across SEG programs.

HSSE Social Media Campaign

The committee developed a safety awareness campaign to highlight key HSSE Wiki resources and promote a safety-first culture in geophysics, fieldwork, and daily practice. While implementation did not occur in 2025, the campaign remains a priority for 2026 to enhance engagement and promote best practices across the SEG community.

HSSE App Student Competition

The committee explored a student competition concept to develop an HSSE mobile app for tracking incidents and hazardous situations.

- **Phase one:** Focus on recording field camp incidents
- **Phase two (future):** Expand usage to all SEG events and activities

This initiative aims to engage students and early-career members while improving incident tracking and safety planning. Although planning did not advance in 2025, the proposal remains under active consideration for the upcoming year.

Last year's field camps encountered the following safety issues.

Occurrence	Total Injuries (%)	Incidents (%)	Incident Details
Wounds	38%	25%	Struck by tools, plants; fall, crushed
Strain/Sprain	15%	0%	Foot, hand
Bone & Joint	0%	0%	
Insects	15%	0%	Chelicerata; reaction
Environmental	8%	0%	Heat
Medical	23%	75%	Syncope, pre-existing condition, URTI

Figure 1. Field Camp Summary Injury Report from 2024.

HSSE: SEG Geophysical Field Camps 2021 to 2024

SEG Field Camps 2021-2024
 G Field Camp reports (14 countries: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, USA)

Occurrence:	Hurts (%)	Incidents (%)	Incident details
Wounds	26%	14%	Cuts on leg, foot; Bruises (due to falls, broken equipment)
Strain/sprain	22%	0%	Hand swelling, Stress-induced body pain
Bone & Joint	0%	0%	
Insects	14%	10%	Bee, Hornet, Chelicerata sting reactions
Environmental	11%	0%	Heat, sunburn, allergies
Medical	28%	76%	URT infection, Malaria, Pneumonia, Acute abdomen and GI issues.

33 field activities (3 to 20 days) 95 occurrences
 16,559 participant-days 74 hurts
 4-year period 21 incidents
 No occurrences in 13 of 33 camps 9 evacuations (7 Medical, 2 Wound)

• 13 of 33 camps reported no occurrences (39%)

GI = gastrointestinal

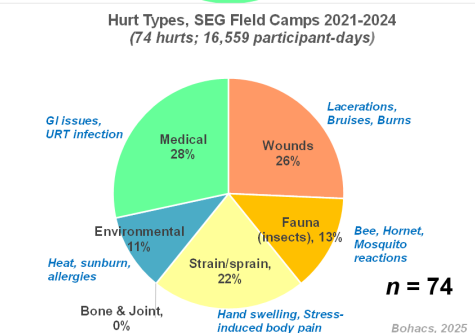
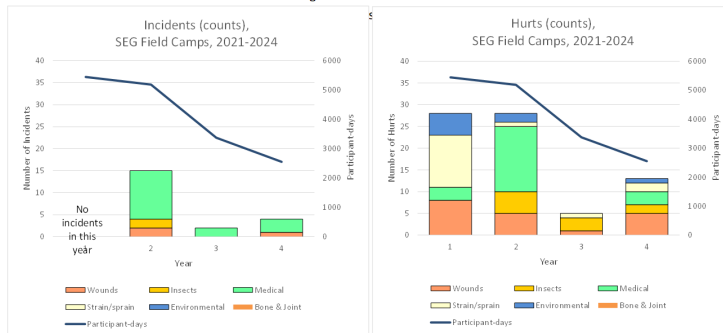
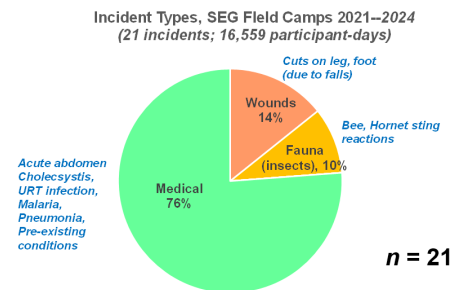


Figure 2. Field Camp Summary Injury Report from 2021-2024.