



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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Health & Safety Act (1992) applied to volunteers

FMC has been asked how these regulation might apply to volunteer working on Club Huts or track clearing work

FMC's opinion is:

The Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992 applies to places of work.

Employers using volunteers on a regular basis to do work that is an integral part of their business have the same obligations to keep their volunteers safe as they do their employees. (An example that comes to mind is the Coast to Coast race. I think this provision would apply to all the volunteer marshals etc). Those using volunteers on an irregular basis also have a duty to take all practicable steps to safeguard their volunteers, but can't be prosecuted. The onus is on the employer, not an organisation supplying volunteers, to manage the safety aspects.

Clubs using their own volunteers on their own huts have no obligations under this Act.

Clubs using contractors to work on their huts etc do have obligations while the hut is a "place of work".