

# 2008 Accidents & Recommendations



## Club-Wide Safety Committee

**Dan Lauren (Chair). Steven Glenn, Kenneth Small (Bellingham). Harlan Brown, Lisa Loper (Everett).**

**Thomas Pearson, Henry Romer (Olympia).**

**N. Michael Hansen, Jim Nelson, John Ohlson,**

**Don Schaechtel, Max Sevareid (Seattle).**

**Jayson Kastens, Gary Peniston, Mindy Roberts (Tacoma).**

## The Mountaineers

**7 April 2009**

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# 2008 Incidents



- **3 Major Incidents**
  - **Definition: SAR\* and/or hospitalization**
  - **All Fractures**
- **13 Significant Incidents**
  - **Definition: Injury & Dr. visit, but no SAR\***
  - **10 on non-technical terrain**
- **55 Minor Incidents**
  - **Definition: Injury but no Dr. visit**

**\*SAR = Search and Rescue**

# Comparison By Year



<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Major</b> (SAR and/or hospitalization)	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Included Fatalities</b>			
<b>Significant</b> (Injury & Dr. visit, no SAR)	<b>NR*</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Minor</b> (Injury but no Dr. visit)	<b>NR*</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>55</b>

\*Not Reported

**2006 and 2007 Major Incidents → page 24**

# Request of Trip Leaders



- **Please use “Incident Reporting” section in Activity Report to document all incidents**
  - **As soon as possible after trip**
  - **Also include no-injury “near-misses”**
- **Any information is better than nothing**
- **This is principal source of information for our reports**
- **We will follow up if we need more**

# Major Incidents (SAR and/or hospitalization)



## **1. Fractured Hip (hospitalized)**

- **Magnuson Park Clubhouse - ladder fall**
- **2-27-08**

## **2. Fractured Leg (SAR, hospitalized)**

- **Suntop Road – ski tip caught**
- **3-2-08**

## **3. Fractured Leg (SAR, hospitalized)**

- **Mt. Baring – arrest failure, 150' slide**
- **5-31-08**

# Significant Incidents

(Injury and Dr. visit, but no SAR)



- **13 incidents**
  - **10 Slip/Trip/Falls on non-technical terrain**
  - **3 Falls on technical terrain**
- **Fractures:** **wrist (3), arm**
- **Dislocations:** **shoulder, knee**
- **Ankle Sprains:** **3**
- **Bruising/abrasions:** **3**
- **Concussion:** **1**



## Significant Incidents (Cont.)

- **Three Significant Incidents occurred on organized Field Trips**
  - **Intermediate Ice One**
  - **Alpine Scrambling Rock One**
  - **Sport Climb Class**



# Significant Incidents Detail



- 1. Stevens Pass Backcountry 12-23-07**
  - Dislocated Shoulder
  - Fall while skiing
  
- 2. Mt. Si 5-4-08**
  - Broken wrist
  - Fall on ice patch
  
- 3. Tieton: Royal Columns 5-5-08**
  - Sprained ankle
  - Leader fall

## Significant Incidents Detail



- 4. Navaho Pass 6-14-08**
- Sprained ankle
  - Twisted ankle on trail
- 5. Red Mountain (Snoqualmie) 6-19-08**
- Bruising and abrasions
  - Fall on steep snow – failure to self-arrest
- 6. Mt. Hinman 6-27-08**
- Broken wrist
  - Tripped on tree branch on trail

# Significant Incidents Detail



## **7. Intermediate Ice 1 FT (Mt. Baker) 8-23-08**

- Sprained ankle**
- Fall on ice, top-roped**

## **8. Edgeworks Climbing Gym 9-18-08**

- Dislocated knee**
- Leader fall**

## **9. Tuck and Robin Lakes 9-27-08**

- Bruised arm**
- Fall on trail**

# Significant Incidents Detail



## **10. Folach Falls, Knoydart Wilderness, Scotland 9-5-08**

- Broken arm
- Fall on trail

## **11. Five Sisters of Kintail Ridge Walk, Kintail Mountains, Scotland 9-13-08**

- Injured forehead (stitches)
- Fall on trail

# Significant Incidents Detail



## **12. Alpine Scrambling Rock Field Trip (Mt. Erie) 5-11-08**

- Broken wrist**
- Fall on trail**

## **13. Heather Lake 10-25-08**

- Concussion**
- Fall on boardwalk**



## Minor Incidents (Injury but no Dr. visit)

- **55 incidents reported**
  - Likely under-reported
- **20 involved falls**
  - 2 falls on rock/ice
  - 3 falls on snow
  - 14 falls on “non technical” terrain
  - 1 glissade



## Minor Incidents

- **21 involved insufficient preparation or illness:**
  - **7 personal illness**
  - **2 conditioning**
  - **1 stick in eye**
  - **3 routefinding**
  - **2 party organization**
  - **6 equipment failures**



## Minor Incidents

- **14 categorized as other**
  - **2 involved being cut by equipment**
  - **3 involved being hit by falling snow/rock/ice**
  - **5 involved party separation**
  - **2 described helping non-Mountaineer party**
  - **2 were warnings on routes**



# Recommendation Topics



- 1. Personal Responsibility**
- 2. Traveling Alone**
- 3. Snow Travel**
- 4. Volunteer Work Parties**



# Recommendations

## 1. Personal Responsibility

- **Recognize own ability**
  - Emphasize sign-up within ability
  - Leader notes – give clear expectations
- **Dealing with unskilled graduates**
  - What do when participant lacked skill?
    - Feedback to activity? Rescind graduation?  
Refresher? Plan of action for person?
  - Activity committee should discuss topic



# Recommendations

## 2. Traveling Alone

- **Injured parties never travel alone**
  - Injured party doesn't want to be burden
  - Reemphasize no party separation
- **Buddy system**
  - Even for healthy party members

# Recommendations

## 3. Snow Travel



- **Stress use of crampons**
  - **Generally underutilized – fear of trip/cut**
  - **Dull crampons are adequate for novices**
    - **File down points of new ones**
- **Use all equipment to prevent a fall**
  - **Ice axe off the pack, self-belay, crampons**
  - **Willingness to offer belay or handline**



# Recommendations

## 4. Volunteer Work Parties

- **Insure safety program in place**

# More Information



- **Much more detail online**
  - **Accident Reports (2006-2008)**
  - **Recommendations (2006-2008)**
- **[Board of Trustees/Archive/Safety Committee](#)**  
**(left or right click)**

# Contacts



[Dan.Lauren@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:Dan.Lauren@weyerhaeuser.com) (Chair)

[John-Ohlson@comcast.net](mailto:John-Ohlson@comcast.net) (Editor, this Doc)



## A-1. 2006 Major Incidents

- ❖ Fall on snow w/ice ax – arrest failure
  1. Cracked pelvis & vertebrae - Crosby Mtn
  2. Lacerated knee, bruised ribs - The Brothers
- ❖ Steep snow travel - w/o ice ax
  3. Broken leg - McClellan Butte
  4. Lacerated head - High Priest
- ❖ Uncontrolled Glissade
  5. Lacer. face, abdominal puncture - Red Mtn



# 2006 Major Incidents



## ❖ Rock Leader Fall

6. Bruising, chipped vertebrae - Chair Peak

## ❖ Unroped Fall

7. Possibly caused by stroke - broken leg, back, neck, fatality by blood clot 3 weeks later - Yellowjacket Tower

8. Concussion, ankle and wrist injury - Lundin Peak



# 2006 Major Incidents

## ❖ Party separation

9. Solo unplanned bivy (2 nights)
  - Hypothermia, dehydration and frostbite
  - Muncaster Mountain



## A-2. 2007 Major Incident

- **Hike on Mt. Jupiter      7-14-07**
  - **Fatality**
  - **“Congenital Coronary Artery Hypoplasia”**



## **A-3. Club Wide Safety Committee**

- **Reports to Board of Trustees**
- **Established after Sharkfin Tower Accident**
- **Promote a culture of safety in The Mountaineers**
  - **Collect/report accidents and near-misses**
  - **Educate our leaders and instructors**