2008 Accidents & Recommendations

Club-Wide Safety Committee

The Mountaineers

7 April 2009
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008 Incidents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Information</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-1 2006 Major Incidents</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-2 2007 Major Incidents</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-3 Club Wide Safety Committee</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major</strong>&lt;br&gt;(SAR and/or hospitalization)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Included Fatalities</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Injury &amp; Dr. visit, no SAR)</td>
<td>NR*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Injury but no Dr. visit)</td>
<td>NR*</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
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
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)

• Board of Trustees/Archive/Safety Committee
  (left or right click)
Contacts

Dan.Lauren@weyerhaeuser.com  (Chair)
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