

2009 Accidents & Recommendations



Club-Wide Safety Committee

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The Mountaineers

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2009 Incidents



- **7 Major Incidents**
 - **Definition: SAR* and/or hospitalization**
- **6 Significant Incidents**
 - **Definition: Injury & Dr. visit, but no SAR***
- **71 Minor Incidents**
 - **Definition: Injury but no Dr. visit**

***SAR = 911 and/or Search and Rescue**

Comparison By Year



Incident Type	'06	'07	'08	'09
Major (SAR and/or hospitalization)	9	1	3	7
	Included Fatalities	1	1	0
Significant (Injury & Dr. visit, no SAR)	NC*	13	13	6
Minor (Injury but no Dr. visit)	NC*	37	55	71

***Not Collected**

2006, 2007 & 2008 Major Incidents → page 22-26

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 (7)

(SAR and/or hospitalization)



- 1. Hip Hematoma** **1-26-09**
 - **Tacoma Clubhouse – step thru ceiling**
 - **911 & ER**

- 2. Deep abdominal cut + Other** **2-22-09**
 - **McClellan Butte, Climb – loose boulder**
 - **911 & hospitalization**

- 3. Fractured Ankle** **4-11-09**
 - **Camp Muir, Scramble – snowshoe fall/slide**
 - **SAR, hospitalization**



Major Incidents

4. Deep Leg Gash 6-14-09

- **Icicle Ridge, Hike (Singles) – fall from log**
- **911 + SAR**

5. Lost Overnite 6-27-09

- **Kaleetan Peak, Scramble**
- **Member separated from party**
 - **Chose “better route”**
- **911 + SAR**

Major Incidents



6. Felt Faint

4-11-09

- **Foss Waterway, Sea Kayaking**
- **Wilderness First Aid event**
- **911**

7. Panic Attack

11-8-09

- **Tacoma Clubhouse, MOFA class**
- **911**

Significant Incidents (6)

(Injury and Dr. visit, but no SAR)



- **Slip/Trip/Falls on non-technical terrain** 2
 - **Fall on rock** 1
 - **Hit/cut by falling object** 2
 - **Fall during glissade** 1
-

- **Fractures: shoulder blade, finger** 2
- **Ice axe puncture leg** 1
- **Ankle Sprain** 1
- **Concussion** 1
- **Torn meniscus** 1



Significant Incidents (Cont.)

- **Two Significant Incidents occurred on organized Field Trips**
 - **Winter Travel & Camping (Basic)**
 - **Basic Climbing – Snow 2**

Significant Incidents Detail



- 1. SIG winter travel, Climb** **4-25-09**
 - Fall in self-arrest practice
 - Ice axe leg puncture
- 2. Yellowjacket Tower, Climb** **5-4-08**
 - Hit by rockfall (party-caused)
 - Shoulder blade fracture
- 3. Reflection Lake, Snow 2** **6-6-09**
 - Fall on steep snow, unable to arrest, hit tree
 - Torn meniscus

Significant Incidents Detail



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 4. Prusik Peak, Climb | 7-21-09 |
| – Leader fall | |
| – Concussion, bruising | |
| 5. Mt. Stuart, Scramble | 8-8-09 |
| – Rockfall (party-induced) | |
| – Broken finger | |
| 6. Colchuck Peak, Scramble | 9-7-09 |
| – Loose surface gave way | |
| – Severely sprained ankle | |

Minor Incidents

(Injury but no Dr. visit)



- **71 incidents reported**
 - **Likely under-reported, but improving as Leaders learn of our interest**

Minor Incidents



- **22 Falls**
 - 10 on rock/snow/glacier
 - 12 on “non technical” terrain
- **4 Hit/cut by eqpt or by falling object**
- **12 Illness**
- **6 Kayaking**
- **13 Logistics (Party sep., routefind)**
- **8 Preparation (equipment, fitness)**
- **6 Other (Informational)**

Recommendations



- **Focus this year:**

Party (not “potty”) Separation

- **High risk issue**
 - **The most preventable risk we have**
-
- **Keep the party together!**



Party Separation – Why a Problem?

- **Often seems unimportant**
 - Can have large consequences
- **Several recent incidents**
 - Participants easily became separated
- **Parties split into weaker/stronger groups**
 - Communication is reduced
 - Reduces ability to respond to emergency
 - Reduces margin of safety

Party Separation - Radios



- **Radios are helpful**
 - Tend to encourage separation, however
 - Ridges totally block signal – then useless
- **Leader must clarify radios' main purpose**
 - Emergency communication
- **Radios are not an excuse for separation**
 - Radios often are misused this way
- **Leader must still keep party together**

Recommendations



- **Don't let strongest race back to trailhead**
- **Leader needs to be clear on expectations**
- **Party is responsible to stay together**
- **Set stopping points for regroup**
- **Usually no one be alone – Buddy system**
 - **Especially for injured or slow participant**

Big Picture



1. Keep party together

- **A Leader's difficult duty**
- **Greatly improves safety**

2. Participants need personal responsibility

- **To not cause separation**
- **Maintain Buddy contact**

3. Branch/Activity leadership must take action if a leader or participant refuses to embrace this concept

More Information



- **Much more detail online**
 - **Accident Reports (2006-2009)**
 - **Recommendations (2006-2009)**
- **Right click and open Hyperlink:**
 - **[The Mountaineers Safety Committee](http://www.mountaineers.org/source/communities/documentArchive.cfm?section=communities&Cmtlyd=2&ParID=267)**
 - **<http://www.mountaineers.org/source/communities/documentArchive.cfm?section=communities&Cmtlyd=2&ParID=267>**

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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**
 - **Fatality**
 - **“Congenital Coronary Artery Hypoplasia”**

A-3. 2008 Major Incidents



1. Fractured Hip (hospitalized)

- **Magnuson Park Clubhouse - ladder fall**

2. Fractured Leg (SAR, hospitalized)

- **Suntop Road – ski tip caught**

3. Fractured Leg (SAR, hospitalized)

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



A-4. 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**