Overview of The Mountaineers Annual Safety Report for 2013

Prepared by the Mountaineers Safety Committee:
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Jim Nelson – Seattle
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Chad Painter – Tacoma Safety Officer
Tom Pearson – Olympia Safety Officer
Jeff Panza – Seattle
James Pierson – Bellingham
Mark Scheffer – Seattle
Damien Scott – Everett
Dave Shema – Seattle
Mike Sweeney – Seattle
Tony Tsuboi – Everett Safety Officer
Mike Waiss – Tacoma
Jud Webb – Tacoma
Content and organization

• Introduction and purpose
• Summary statistics
• Major incidents
• Significant incidents
• Summary of minor incidents
• For more information – additional resources
The purpose of the Safety Committee is to promote a culture of safety among The Mountaineers.

- Collect and report accidents and near misses
  - Thank you for sharing experiences!
- Educate and train or leaders
  - How can we avoid incidents in the future?
- We volunteer our time because safety is fundamental to what we do
Incident types

- **Major Incidents** involve Search and Rescue, 911 call, or emergency medical attention
- **Significant Incidents** involve other medical attention such as doctors visits or SAR called but not deployed
- **Minor Incidents** are anything else reported to the Safety Committee, including injuries not requiring medical attention or near misses
Incident categories

• Fall/slip
  – Nontechnical terrain (trail, approach)
  – Snow
  – Stream
  – Rock
  – Ice

• Hit/cut
  – Snow/ice
  – Tree
  – Rock
  – Equipment (ice axe)
  – Other person

• Illness/preparation
  – Head/eye/nose
  – Back
  – Leg/knee/ankle/foot
  – Shoulder/arm/hand
  – Fatigue/weakness/conditioning/flu/cold
  – Gastrointestinal/heart/organisms
  – Heat/dehydration
  – Cold/hypothermia
  – Bugs
  – Unspecified
Incident categories (cont’d)

• Logistics
  – Routefinding/overdue
  – Party split
  – Automobile
  – Conflict with other party

• Informational
  – Equipment limit or lack
  – Major rock fall
  – Observed avalanches nearby
  – Fire nearby
  – Route conditions
  – Assist other party

• Near miss or lessons learned
  – Equipment limit or lack
  – Party-caused rock fall
  – Rockfall near or on party
  – Avalanches near or on party
  – Fire affecting party
  – Route conditions

• Other

• Boating
  • Kayak flip
  • Drowning
## Summary Statistics 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall/Slip</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hit/Cut</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Illness/preparation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Near Miss</td>
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## Fall/slip incidents 2013

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<td>Snow</td>
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<td>Stream</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
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<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
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# Hit/cut incidents 2013

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Snow/ice</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Other object</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
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# Illness/preparation incidents 2013

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head/eye/nose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leg/knee/ankle/foot</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoulder/arm/hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue/weakness/conditioning/flu/cold</td>
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<td>Gastrointestinal/heart/organs</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heat/dehydration</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold/hypothermia</td>
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<td>Bugs</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
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# Boating incidents 2013

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<td>Kayak flip</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit obstacle</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Drowning</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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# Logistics incidents 2013

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<tbody>
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<td>Routefinding/overdue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Party split</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automobile</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with other party</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8</strong></td>
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## Near miss incidents 2013

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<td>Equipment limit or lack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Party-caused rock fall</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avalanche near or on party</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire nearby</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route conditions</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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## Informational incidents 2013

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Avalanches observed</td>
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<td>Fire observed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Route conditions</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assist other party</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automobile</td>
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<td>Training/skill limit or lack</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
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Major Incidents

January 19, 2013 – Stevens Lodge (Properties)
Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – heart
Injuries: Suspected heart attack (emergency medical attention)

April 7, 2013 - Green River Headworks (Whitewater kayak outing)
Incident Type: Boating – drowning – overturned boat
Injuries: Fatality (emergency medical attention)

April 20, 2013 – Leavenworth, Icicle Canyon, R&D (Intermediate rock climb field trip)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock
Injuries: Fractured ankle, multiple contusions (emergency medical attention)

April 23, 2013 – Budd Inlet (Basic sea kayak field trip)
Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – shoulder – overturned boat
Injuries: Dislocated right shoulder (emergency medical attention)
Major Incidents

May 12, 2013 – Baker Lake Trail Crew (Venturing outing)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – nontechnical terrain – avoiding a falling tree
**Injuries:** Cut leg requiring stitches (emergency medical attention)

June 1, 2013 – Mt Hood, Palmer Glacier (Basic glacier climb outing)
**Incident Type:** Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – eye
**Injuries:** Temporary blindness, high altitude corneal edema (emergency medical attention)

June 7, 2013 – Liberty Bell/SW Face (Intermediate rock climb outing)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – snow – hit rock
**Injuries:** Fractured foot (emergency medical attention)

July 5, 2013 – Mt Stuart/N Ridge (Intermediate rock climb outing)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – rock
**Injuries:** Fractured vertebra (emergency medical attention)
Major Incidents

July 19, 2013 - Guye Peak/S Rib (Basic rock climb outing)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock
Injuries: Leg laceration requiring stitches (emergency medical attention)

August 3, 2013 - Sahale Peak/Quien Sabe Glacier (Basic glacier climb outing)
Incident Type: Hit/cut – tree branch
Injuries: Scratched cornea in the eye (emergency medical attention)

August 23, 2013 - Guye Peak/W Face (Basic rock climb outing)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock
Injuries: Fractured leg (emergency medical attention)
Major Incidents

August 24, 2013 – South Face of North Early Winter Spire (Rock climb outing)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – rock
**Injuries:** Hangman’s neck fracture, fractured cheekbone, broken ankle, compound dislocation of the right thumb, broken fingers, stitches on the forehead, lacerated eyelid, abrasions (911, emergency medical attention)

September 8, 2013 - Guye Peak/Improbable Traverse (Intermediate rock climb outing)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – rock
**Injuries:** Fractured back, sprained ankles (emergency medical attention, SAR)

September 14, 2013 - Curtis Glacier (Ice climbing field trip)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – ice
**Injuries:** Cut on leg requiring stitches (emergency medical attention)
Significant Incidents

February 2, 2013 - Paradise Area (Snowshoe outing)
Incident Type: Logistics – automobile accident
Injuries: Soreness and stiffness (medical attention)

February 9, 2013 – Heybrook Ridge (Navigation field trip)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow
Injuries: Knee sprain (medical attention)

February 17, 2013 - Copper Creek Hut (Nordic ski outing)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow while snowplowing
Injuries: Hurt foot (medical attention)

April 20, 2013 - Mount Rainier NP (Alpine scrambles field trip)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow during ice axe arrest
Injuries: Injured left shoulder (medical attention)
April 21, 2013 – Ozette Triangle (Hiking outing)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – nontechnical terrain
Injuries: Sprained wrist (medical attention)

April 27, 2013 – Paradise, Mt Rainier NP (Basic climbing field trip)
Incident Type: Hit/cut – snow – snow cave collapsed
Injuries: Strained and/or torn cartilage between ribs and sternum (medical attention)

May 4, 2013 – Vantage (Aid climb outing)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock
Injuries: Sprained fruit and bruised ribs, wrist, and shoulder (medical attention)

June 4, 2013 - Denali (Mt McKinley)/West Buttress (Intermediate mountaineering outing)
Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – Lungs
Injuries: Bronchial Inflammation (medical attention)
Significant Incidents

June 5, 2013 - Ingalls Peak/East Ridge (Intermediate rock climb outing)
Incident Type: Logistics – overdue party
Injuries: None (Search and rescue called)

June 8, 2013 – Squamish, BC (Crag climb field trip)
Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock
Injuries: Hit head and cut finger (medical attention)

Incident Type: Search and rescue called; Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – ankle injury; Logistics – party split
Injuries: Injured tendon in the right foot (medical attention, search and rescue called)

July 20, 2013 – Coldwater Loop/South Coldwater trail and Lakes trail (Hiking outing)
Incident Type: Logistics – party split
Injuries: None (search and rescue called but no search performed)
Significant Incidents

August 20, 2013 – Magnuson Park, The Brig (Social folk dancing event)
**Incident Type:** Fall/slip – nontechnical terrain
**Injuries:** Fractured knee cap (medical attention)

August 22, 2013 - Norse Peak (Midweek hikes outing)
**Incident Type:** Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – back
**Injuries:** Back Spasms

October 19, 2013 – Colchuck Peak/NE Couloir – winter (Intermediate ice climb outing)
**Incident Type:** Logistics – overdue party
**Injuries:** None (911 called)
Minor Incidents

- Fall/slip – 41
- Hit/cut – 6
- Illness/preparation – 26
- Boating – 1
- Logistics – 8
- Near miss – 4
- Informational – 13
- Total – 99
Patterns emerging...

- Falls/slips/trips on snow and nontechnical terrain dominate incidents reported
- Personal illness/weakness/conditioning/flu/cold affect many trips
- Heat/dehydration occur during hot weather!
- Insect stings occur late summer
For more information

- [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) – About Us – Safety
- [www.mountaineers.org/safety/default.cfm](http://www.mountaineers.org/safety/default.cfm) – Annual safety reports (5 years)
  – Annual safety recommendations
  – Safety Highlights (5 to 10 per year)
- [safety@mountaineers.org](mailto:safety@mountaineers.org)
Visit/Return To: Safety Highlights web page

Safety Highlight – Concussed! Snow Falling From Cedars
Lessons from Mountaineer Incidents

Seattle Climbing and Seattle Safety committees are experimenting with raising awareness of safety issues that can arise on climbs, scrambles, backcountry skiing, and other Mountaineer activities. Previous Safety Highlights and other information are available on the Safety Committee’s web page.

Identifying information has been removed or disguised.

-- Dave Shema, Seattle Branch Safety Officer

Blows to the head can be very difficult to assess, especially in the backcountry. There may be few signs of injury.

Asking the right questions to learn of symptoms can be an art - head trauma patients may answer a specific question in the negative (e.g. “Did you see stars?”) and be too disorientated to address the intent of the question.

The student involved in this incident provided some suggestions.

January 21, 2012 - east side of the Gold Creek Winter Recreation Area, Snoqualmie Pass
Injuries: head trauma with possible concussion
Cause of Accident: Snow/ice falling from tree
We are all responsible for safety

The Mountaineers Safety Committee