Club-Wide Safety Committee

The Mountaineers
18 March 2010
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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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>‘06</th>
<th>‘07</th>
<th>‘08</th>
<th>‘09</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major</strong> (SAR and/or hospitalization)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included Fatalities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant</strong> (Injury &amp; Dr. visit, no SAR)</td>
<td>NC*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong> (Injury but no Dr. visit)</td>
<td>NC*</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>71</td>
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</table>

*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
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)
• Right click and open Hyperlink:
  – The Mountaineers Safety Committee
Contacts

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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