

CORRECTED Activity Start Date	CORRECTED Activity Category	CORRECTED Activity	CORRECTED Incident Type	CORRECTED Incident Category	ADDED Incident specifics	ADDED Injury/Illness Location	ADDED Injury/Illness	CORRECTED Terrain	Notes	CLEANED Incident report	CLEANED lessons-learned
3/Jul/2020	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Ice axe arrest needed / attempted			Snow - steep, ice axe, poles recommended		Incident occurred during descent from climb of North Face of Kangaroo Temple. There was more snow cover than anticipated by the trip leader. Steep sections were navigated slowly but safely during ascent. During descent, all the participants were tired as this was first climb of the year for many. Coming down from Kangaroo Pass towards SR20, participant lost his footing on a snow section, slipped and fell some distance (10-20 feet), unable to arrest with his ice axe. He was able to stop next to the rocks. He declined medical examination and was able to hike out with everyone.	As trip leader, I should have had the team members bring crampon or micro spikes. I was asked at the start and offered my opinion that it won't be necessary. They may have prevented the slip and fall. Fortunately, I had loaned my ice axe to SB for descent, which hopefully helped in other instances on descent. The participants, including the person who slipped, were not in best physical shape, given the abbreviated start to the season. Basic graduates do not have the same physical readiness requirement as current students. Leader kept the pace measured for the approach and descent, but 13-hour day did take its toll towards the end when this occurred.
10/Mar/2020	Field trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed		Leader cleaned the anchor on South wall and was ready to lower. Belayer took all the slack from the system and started lowering. Suddenly there was significant slack in the system allowing climber to get lowered at a pace equivalent to free falling and out of control. Unclear on what was the root cause. Belayer kept an eye on rope to make sure it wasn't tangled around a hold to get untangled on lower. Some investigation might avoid similar future incidents.	
22/Feb/2020	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)			Ice - technical	fell 30 ft	On the final approach, I made a mental note make sure we didn't down climb too far after the final rappel to save having to climb back up to our stowed gear. We had stowed gear much higher than normal because of the amount of snow allowed us to snowshoe up past the trees that are at the top of the saddle (clear up by the base of the climb). The climb was running far later than anticipated because of problems with 1. slow climbing. Though we were on top at 2:30 we did have plenty of time to get back to the gear. 2. Then on the rappels, we had a very slow first rappelling (Megajul issues). 3. After the first rappel, the rope got stuck and I had to climb the gully and free the rope, then downclimb the gully. 4. We had trouble setting up an extension (clipping both sides of the knot causing binding the carabiner, and the Megajul again). The above issues did not cause the fall below, they were only ancillary issues that had an impact on the outcome of the trip. By this time, it was close to the end of dusk and we were losing light, we had finished the final rappel and started down climbing the gully. The two other climbers had their headlamps attached while I pulled the rope. They had both took out. I didn't have my headlamp out and mentioned to the climber calling the rope that we needed to hurry and that I didn't want to take the time to get mine. I only had one tool out because I was comfortable with the deeper snow conditions of that part of the climb (similar to a TS scramble). Thinking back to my mental note above, I wanted to make sure we cut across just below the rock line (like you see in most of the pictures. What I didn't know was the rock line I was referencing was much higher on this side of the wall than were the climb started, the snow conditions were far different than in most pictures and the low light conditions didn't flag me of this. I was trying to move fast and at the same time not wanting to push the others past their comfort climbing speed. As I moved across the hill the snow became far more solid and much steeper than it should have if we were on the right route. The clouds cleared just enough for me to catch a glimpse of the trees at the top of the saddle and I was way, way too high and knew I needed to climb further down because there was a rock band in my way and if I continued I would have been about three quarters up the variation of the first pitch (see option #2 on Summitpost.com). The snow was so firm now that it was front pointing, but the snow would not allow for a good tool placement (just pull through). I decided to go back to better conditions and when it hit a section of was I felt was decent snow I looked down and it appeared that I could downclimb for when I was at back to the real route. I climbed down about twenty-five feet and went to kick in my left foot and when it hit the snow. Knees bent I was on, broke away and I began to fall. At first, I thought I had started an avalanche. My first instinct was to bring my tool up for arrest, but there wasn't any snow around me and then my crampons caught in the ice below and sent me flipping end over end. My tool was hurled from my grasp on the third or fourth impact. I continued the rise cycle, landing on my face, back, head and legs for what I felt like never ending. I finally came to rest on my back; still in steep snow (about 100 feet below the correct route). The two other climbers called down to see if I was "ok". I said: "I don't know yet". After slowly moving all my body parts everything seemed to be intact and functioning. Though I felt like someone had hit me in the face with a frying pan a few times and my ankles felt like they had been run over by a truck, I was able to stand and was coherent. I yelled up for them to get back the way they came and completely downclimb the gully. It took what seemed like twenty to thirty minutes for them to reach me. I felt what looks to be about 300 feet. The other two collected the snowshoes and they helped me slowly hike out. Left the trailhead at 7:00 am, Return to the cars and 11:00 pm	Know the route, even if you think you know the route. Be as careful on the descent as you do on the climb. Spend the time to figure out the route when conditions deteriorate, don't rush to beat the light. Make sure all in the party have a voice and are expected to speak up if something doesn't look or seem right. Ask if everyone is comfortable with the decisions made.
8/Feb/2020	Field trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)			Gym, artificial climbing walls,	Loose hold on climbing feature	I was just climbing the south wall and tried to grab a hand hold and it was loose so it spun and I swung a little. It wasn't a big deal but it should probably be tightened.	
2/Feb/2020	Trip	Climbing	Major	Hit, Struck, Cut	hit/out - natural object	face, eye, nose, mouth	injury - laceration, abrasion, puncture	Ice - technical	Went to hospital	A participant, was struck by falling ice, which cut his lower lip, resulting in stitches. Leader Report: Morning of Feb 7th a group was top roping at Haffner Creek (British Columbia) highway 935. They were all warming up and on their first few laps of the day. The ice was a touch brittle from cool temps over night. One participant was half way or so up the ice route. When he swung into the ice and a "sinner plate" became dislodged. He was able to mostly duck his head and get out of the way, but a small chunk hit his lip, resulting in a couple stitches. We did a field cleaning, bandaged and sent him to the hospital. Subject Report: Incident account by participant: On my second lap of an ice pitch at Haffner Creek on top rope, I dislodged a football-sized hunk of ice while swinging my tool. The hunk of ice struck me in the face, slightly left of center between my chin and lip. The impact caused a 1cm cut that bled profusely and also caused me to bite the inside of my mouth. This was around 11AM. I asked belayer to lower me, and once off belay, he provided some immediate first aid in the form of wound cleaning and a gauze pad to apply pressure. Other party members looked at the wound and concluded that it might require stitches. We discussed a plan and determined that another participant would drive me back to Canmore and that I would then drive myself to the hospital. The driver and I hiked out quickly, and after about a 45 minute drive, the driver dropped me off as planned. I drove myself to the emergency room at Canmore General Hospital. I was seen quickly, and the doctor determined that the face wound and mouth wound were not connected and that only the facial wound required stitches. He administered a local anesthetic and applied two sutures. The doctor determined that there was no brain or other head trauma but gave me a sheet on warning signs to take away. I left the hospital by 2:00.	From leader: Falling ice both natural and human produced is a normal hazard mitigated from tucking head down, wearing a helmet, swinging into concave features and not staring directly at the ice when you swing, however ice still fly's and produces a hazard. Not much could have been differently other than tucking his head faster and perhaps not swinging at convex ice feature.
18/Jan/2020	Clinic	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, equipment issues, party issues	lack of skill, preparation, conditioning, fatigue			Ice - technical	Improper anchor setup	We were nearing the end of our last ice climbing day in Hyalite Canyon, MT. Participants in my group had each led their first (and some their second) WI3 climbs. We relocated to Fat Chance WI3 and I asked the group in any participant wanted to lead the climb. One offered to lead it and this climb was fully within this participant's ability level. At the top of the climb is a large tree with a sling for rappelling and this participant affixed the rope to this anchor (which is what other parties do, too). After being lowered the other group leader and I asked the participant what was used for anchoring the rope. The answer was that this participant had clipped the rope to the tat with a quick draw and then used a locking carabiner. A few participants climbed the lower, steeper section and lowered off. The last participant climbed up to the tree to clean the gear and lower off. When he got up there he yelled out something to the effect of having been top roping on a single non-locking carabiner. When all people were back on the ground we asked the individual that lead the climb what exactly was used in the anchor. This participant had used a quick draw and a locking carabiner, but evidently put the locker on one side of the quickdraw locking it to the tat and clipped the rope with a non-locking carabiner. This surprised us because this participant has climbed for several years and built two perfect anchors with screws, cord, and locking carabiners on the two prior leads. We had a lengthy discussion about the risk that the other climbers were subjected to and that it is never, ever appropriate to make a top rope anchor with only one non-locking carabiner attaching the rope to the anchor (and I explained how this could become unclipped and how climbers have fallen in the past).	We could have asked for an exact description of the anchor this participant created. Then we would have had a clearer understanding instead of interpreting the original explanation as a quickdraw as well as a locking carabiner. This situation did not end poorly because we were not flipping the rope multiple times to get it on a different fall line, which kept the rope away from the carabiner gate and therefore did not unclip itself when weighted. Long story short, this could have ended very poorly for a participant, also all participants learned (and relearned) that this was not an acceptable anchor set up and that they will never ever do this again.
18/Jan/2020	Clinic	Climbing	Safety Concern	OTHER	lack of skill, preparation, conditioning			Ice - technical	Improper anchor setup	A student led an ice route and set up a top rope anchor. The anchor was a quick draw that was attached to webbing on a tree. The draw had a locker on the webbing and a single non-locker attached to the rope. Three students climbed on this set up.	
11/Jan/2020	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Slip not resulting in a fall	foot/ankle	injury - sprain, strain, tear	Trail		After a successful short hike and skills practice of mock top rope belay practice we hiked back to the cars. One participant who has experienced minor ankle sprains in the past rolled their ankle. Their pain was immediate and the team quickly responded. Our first aid lead for the day evaluated the injury while they rested in a seated position. While our injured participant rested the rest of the party divided up our injured participants gear. After some water and anti-buprenorphin our hiker tested their ankle. With the assistance of two trekking poles it was determined that they could walk out slowly on their own. Thank fully what remained of our hike out was a manageable 200ft of elevation loss and less than a 1/4 mile. Under my advisement the injured participant followed up with a doctors visit on Monday. X-rays determined that there were no fractures. A brace/boot was prescribed along with some physical therapy in the subsequent weeks.	Given the moderate terrain and favorable weather I allowed participants to hike out at their own pace with myself and an assistant leader as a sweep. The participant was moving at a faster pace than most. Had I potentially modulated the pace of the hike out, this injury may have been avoided. Our team did however respond quickly and avoided exacerbating incident with the potential for exposure.
22/Sep/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)	back	injury - sprain, strain, tear	Gym, artificial climbing walls, sports area		Participant was practicing falling while in the gym on overhanging walls. Climber fell and was not caught as softly as one could expect and did not assume a more relaxed falling position. The climber said they were fine and continued to climb throughout that evening. Found out a week later that they had went to the doctor the day after the incident because of pain near their lower back and hip the following morning. The individual noted that they were not sure if it had to do with the falling practice or not. Subsequently, the individual was only allowed to top-rope the following workshop session, which they were able to do without issue, and will only be allowed to top-rope on the "final" field trip.	More instruction was giving and demonstrations were given before asking students to practice this skill. Small falls (top rope falls) were practiced in order to build up to actual smaller leader falls. Falling correctly in an outside scenario start with practice in the gym and lots of it folks need. Continue to re-evaluate course curriculum and speak with the climbing.
14/Sep/2019	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Slip not resulting in a fall	foot/ankle	injury - fracture	Rock - talus, boulders, scree	doc visit	On approach to base of The Tooth/South Face, crossing a boulder field, Annie slipped on rock and injured her right foot. She continued on, thinking it was a minor issue since it was not obviously painful. We discussed it briefly on base of the climb, and she decided to push to the summit as it was not painful at that point. Pain started to settle in during the descent, she made it back to car without any help, although on last part of the hike out (about last 2 miles) she had to deliberately place her foot to minimize pain. Next day she visited urgent care and xray showed fractured 3rd metatarsal in her right foot.	Question self diagnosis, lie pause and take appropriate actions to confirm if this is indeed nothing major. Lesson learned for me, is to step back a bit and cross check participant condition. Don't underestimate the non technical terrain! There were plenty of unstable rocks, this could have easily happened to other people. This can be actionable as part of the discussion with group prior to start.
21/Aug/2019	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	route conditions, routefinding,			Snow - technical, glacier, rope needed	fall into crevasse when snow bridge collapsed	Party member fell into a crevasse when the snow bridge being crossed collapsed. Member was able to self-extricate. Rope team members followed training: provided team arrest, set initial and secondary anchor. No injuries besides some minor bruises.	Team might have avoided crossing snow bridges in the afternoon. Team executed proper crevasse fall procedures to stop the fall and allow member to climb out under own power.
25/Jul/2019	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Ice axe arrest needed / attempted			Snow - steep, ice axe, poles recommended		After climbing Mt. Cruiser, we were coming down a steep snowfield heading toward the main trail. The next to last climber to come down slipped and was unable to self arrest in the soft snow. Luckily, he slid into gravel area in the talus field below the snow and narrowly missed two climbers on the edge of the talus field. He popped right up relatively unscathed and was able to walk out without any sign of injury.	This is a tough question. We had some climbers rappel down the snow field and some walked down. The fallen climber pulled the rappel ropes and was down climbing the final 60 meters. One of us had to walk down after pulling the ropes. I think this is just one of the hazards of climbing. Possibly, better steps could have been kicked and everybody could have followed them.
20/Jul/2019	Trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	rock fall, rock movement			Rock - talus, boulders, scree		Party of 4 was returning to Itsood Ridge camp late in the night after a 20 hour day spent climbing Sinister and Dome. Around 11 pm, one participant was aware of some loose rocks on a slab but somehow she still did slip and triggered a rock slide which took her down for about 15 feet. Luckily no injuries occurred.	Extra caution and a working headlamp could mitigate it. The headlamp rechargeable battery died about an hour before the near miss happened and the participant was forced to use the phone flash light and rely on some other participants headlamps lights. The participant slid until she stopped.
13/Jul/2019	Trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	avalanche			Snow - technical, glacier, rope needed		We had two roped parties ascending the mild Dark Glacier to the col from where we would scramble to the summit of Dark Peak. Weather was partly cloudy with occasional sun. We stopped for a short break (water, clothing adjustment), heard a noise behind us, and saw an avalanche of meter-sized and smaller ice blocks appear from behind a rock rib and cover about 30 feet of the path some of our party had been on about 5 minutes earlier. We did not see the point of origin of the ice fall, but it appears to have been some ice resting on rock several hundred feet above which had broken free. On the return, it was not very obvious where it had come from. In hindsight we realized there had been runnels in the glacier there, and therefore probably some previous activity. I had a chance to read a draft of participant's report on the incident and thought it was accurate and thoughtful.	Nothing obvious I would have done differently; I don't think there were options for a better route, given the restrictions between rock above and crevasses some ways below, and there was no obvious objective hazard. If a rope team had been in the way of the slide, it is quite possible that the one person in the path could have escaped misfortune if he/she kept his/her wits, because the speed of the ice fall was not too great and the width was narrow. I suppose going much earlier in the morning might have lowered the risk, but it was not a hot sunny day.
12/Jul/2019	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Hit, Struck, Cut	hit/out - equipment, tool	leg	injury - laceration, abrasion, puncture	Snow - technical, glacier, rope needed	cut by crampon	One of our participants cut himself on his calf with the other's leg crampon. Since he was only wearing thin pants and no gaiters, the crampon caused a pretty good cut. This was one of his first steps on the glacier and we were almost all still at the base of the glacier so we stopped and attended the injury from a comfortable spot. We cleaned the wound with alcohol swabs and then applied steri-strips to close it and a compressed gauze to keep to absorb excess bleeding and keep it together. Andrea felt fine continuing and we checked periodically on bleeding and feeling. He kept reassuring us it was ok to continue. Back at camp in the evening, we cleaned the wound again and applied antibiotic ointment and more steri-strips and new gauze and bandage. The day after the climb the participant visited the doctor's office and had his leg examined. They were impressed on how well we treated the cut which was clean and did not need real stitches. A good reminder to wear gators when using crampons and to have an up-to-date first aid kit. Mine had been recently re-stocked and was handy in one of the external pockets of my pack when the incident occurred. We also had a near-miss when a football size rock was dislodged in a chossy area near the summit scramble ridge and flew past my head. Had it hit me, it is very likely I would have fallen and since exposure was great in that spot, this could have been fatal.	As for the rock fall, we were slightly off-route at that time and we ended up in a chossy section of rock. We later found the correct spot to transition from snow to rock which would have kept us on the crest of the ridge and more solid rock. Due to low snow it was hard to transition there but had we known about the hazards on the other side, we may have tried harder to join the ridge from climber's right rather than climber's left.
11/Jul/2019	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Slip not resulting in a fall	hand/wrist	injury - fracture	off-trail, cross-country	climber trail	After a successful summit of Mt Rainier via the Emmons Glacier, a participant was descending from Camp Schurman to the White River Campground with two other members of our party. On the climber's trail between the lower part of the Inter-glacier and Glacier Basin, he slipped on loose rocks and took a fall. He caught the fall with his right hand, causing his wrist to fracture. One of his teammates administered first aid and they were able to proceed to Glacier Basin where a park ranger provided additional assistance. He and the other two team members were able to hike on their own back to the trailhead where they were parked. He went to the hospital where they confirmed his wrist was broken and administered definitive care.	The part of the climber's trail where the participant fell has very loose rock and it's an easy place to lose your footing. He didn't have trekking poles on this trip and said afterward that if he'd been using them, it might have helped prevent the fall and/or his broken wrist.
29/Jun/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment issues, Party issues	party issues - conflict, misunderstandings, organization			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed		A leader was instructing my partner team. While I was on top rope, mock leading a diagonal 5.9 crack, she gave direction to my belayer to keep slack out. I asked my belayer to pull in slack, because there was a puddle of rope at my lap. The leader wanted me to feel like I was leading it, but she didn't get my consent to do this before I started climbing...or at all. I talked to my belayer, Jocelyn Huang, after the climb. We were both confused. I was taught, and continue to practice, to follow the instructors of the climber. My partner apologized for not taking in more slack. She was trying to help by doing what I asked, but another participant was holding the rope at the anchor and not allowing her to belay me on top rope. I don't think this is an appropriate method for teaching in The Mountaineers. I need to be able to trust the people I'm climbing with. With too much slack in my top rope, I could get tangled or trip on the extra rope. If I were climbing, thinking my top rope belayer had me, I'd climb in a different manner, not considering the ledge I might hit when taking a fall.	The leader could have asked me to lead the climb, so I understood what was going on from the beginning. The leader and assistant could have let my belayer take in slack, and I could have continued to mock lead. I could have been more firm with Lani, telling her more boldly to let me instruct my belayer as I see fit.
22/Jun/2019	Trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	rock fall, rock movement			off-trail, cross-country		On approach of The Castle from Pinnacle-Plummer saddle (approach.png, green arrows), our group decided to scramble up a short 4th class gully to cross the southeast ridge at "G200" (approach.png, red arrow). This gully consists of large blocky steps, scattered with loose rock, some of which are of considerable size. One participant at the front of the group triggered a rock fall (4th_class_gully.jpg, red rectangle shows suspected origin) that narrowly missed other participants below. I did not observe the origination or the rock fall itself, given my position hidden below a steep rocky step (which provided adequate shelter for myself). Account from participant that triggered the rock fall: ...I've been scrambling for a long time, long before I joined the mountaineers, and this happened to me many times with small rocks, but never with a rock of this size... It all happened very quickly so I'm not sure how exactly it happened, but I believe I actually triggered it with my hand - I remember trying to stop the rock with my boots but wasn't able to. It was a really scary moment and I don't think I'll ever forget about it...	From participant that triggered the rock fall: ...As the first climber, I should have told everyone that some of the big rocks are loose and not let people climb right below me. I was aware of that but didn't call it out - which was clearly a bad decision considering the risks.
14/Jun/2019	Trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	rock fall, rock movement			rock - talus, boulders, scree		Party-induced rockfall. Route took us up 2000 vertical feet of talus, rock and scree. Team did a good job of spreading out to stay out of the fall line of other climbers. However there were several times where climbers needed to move to avoid potential rockfall. I would not call these near misses but required all team members to be vigilant.	No suggestions. Common objective hazard for this type of terrain. All climbers wore helmets.
9/Jun/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)			Snow - steep, ice axe, poles recommended	ice axe still on back	We were traversing a short but steep snow slope, an old avy chute about 20-30 feet wide, when a MAC member slipped and slid about 10 feet and landed in a moat. He was uninjured and was able to climb out without issue. I stopped the group, and made those who had already started across the snow back track a few feet back to the trail. We put on helmets and got out ice axes, and the rest of us crossed without incident.	We definitely should have had ice axes out. At this point there were a couple MAC students in the front of the group, but I normally have myself or another adult in front. We had had some route-finding issues through a short scramble section, and I had stopped to help coach others through it. The trail was narrow, so I had let the students go ahead of me while I was stopped. We had been crossing snow all day with just poles, so I think our guard was probably down. In hindsight, I should have had the students all wait in a safe place, or direct one of the adults to go in the lead. I think the adults would have had the judgment that the snow slope required ice axes for safety.

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1/Jun/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment Issues, Party Issues	equipment issues			Snow - technical, glacier, rope needed	knot came undone on webbing	During crevasse rescue z-pulley practice at Mt Baker, one student was lowered into a crevasse approximately 15 feet. The two students up top began to set up their z-pulley by first building two anchors using pre-set deadman anchors and their own webbing and carabiners. The student setting up the anchor used webbing tied with a water knot. The students did not set up the anchor correctly, and before instructors could correct this error the water knot failed. The student was caught by the backup belay and held until instructors could instruct on proper anchor setup.	This near miss is being reported because we feel that we should put more emphasis on dressing and stressing knots. We show students how to tie and dress knots throughout the course, however water knots can loosen through just hanging on your harness all season. Knots should be reevaluated and stressed before climbs and use. Don't take for granted that a knot you tied in February is still the same knot by June.
1/Jun/2019	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment Issues, Party Issues	route conditions, routefinding, lost, overdue			Snow - steep, ice axe, poles recommended		During our trip outward, we needed to traverse underneath a snowy and icy ledge below Pyramid Peak a few hundred feet above, with a cliff band and waterfall a few hundred feet below, while also crossing a snow bridge over a stream. We received beta via walkie-talkie from a party crossing a few hours earlier that they experienced a near-miss in that stretch, with a large rock landing a few feet from a party member. We discussed the need to traverse quickly. During the traversal, the group split. Three party members in front were significantly faster than three behind, with the trip leaders also split. One party member was having difficulty traversing while using an ice axe in their non-dominant hand, slowing the two people behind them and taking a much longer time to traverse. The snow was soft and the footing relatively good. While approaching the edge of the danger area, a loud crack was heard. Ice and rock began falling, appearing to be headed toward the rear party. The shouted warnings and noise of falling debris induced the rear party to run. Ice and rock crossed the path behind the rear party. It became apparent that it likely would have missed them, but not by much, and the volume, character, and velocity of the ice and rock was such that it certainly would have caused serious injury. There were no injuries; there was much relief. The two most important contributing factors to the incident are: the decision to cross underneath such an unstable area in such weather while ample evidence of rockfall was present, and the reduced speed of the trailing party.	It is difficult to assess the risk of rockfall impacting any given traverse. We did discuss the need to traverse quickly. However, one or more party members were unable or unwilling to do so. We should have assessed the practical ability of our party to actually traverse quickly. Given our advance knowledge of the danger, we should have discussed whether it would be appropriate to delay our exit until either nightfall or early the next morning. We did not have this discussion. On the way in on the day previously, we could also have assessed the likelihood of facing an elevated danger the next day. The other climbing party chose to camp prior to this slope; I'd be interested to know their thoughts (and trip co-leader Rob Busack knows one of the members well). This party also started and finished their summit bid significantly earlier. Possibly we should have, as well. When facing a traverse like this, under danger of rock and icefall, the entire party should be confident of their ability to traverse quickly in both directions. This need underscores the need for more practice traversing with an ice axe on steep slopes during Basic and prior to such a climb. We should also advertise the potential dangers on the trip page (https://www.mountainers.org/activities/routes-places/snowfield-peak-nine-glacier) so that good decisions can be made prior to the start of the trip. See attached a picture of the area in question. Debris is evident from the slide under discussion and past slides.
19/May/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment Issues, Party Issues	rappel			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed	harness issue	This near miss occurred at the rappel station of our Rock 2 field trip for Basic Climbing. Student was practicing his first of three rappels using belay device. He tied into a backup belay and went through gear and setup safety checks with the backup belay, checking that each were tied in properly and gear was properly secured. He was then belayed to the rappel anchor to tie in with a personal anchor system. He and the instructor evaluated the rappel anchor for any concerns. Anchor passing inspection, Ross then set up his belay device rappel properly. After safety checks - checking carabiners locked and autoblock functions properly - Student began to rappel. Nearly halfway down the approximately 200 foot rappel, he called up "Uh oh, I have a problem here." We called down for clarification and he reported that his harness leg loop had "snapped". Ross was wearing a Black Diamond Couloir Harness, which is an straight harness. Ross called up that he felt he could carefully and slowly continue the rappel and make it safely to the ground. I notified course leader of the issue so that she could meet Ross at the bottom of the rappel to evaluate the situation. The course leader met the student at the bottom of the rappel and confirmed that he was safely on the ground. Student felt okay afterward and completed his last two required rappels borrowing an instructor's rock climbing harness.	Student had known this was not an ideal harness for rock climbing and had mentioned before the rappel that his rock climbing harness is on it's way, "in the mail." Safety checks, three or four times, can prevent preventable incidents. Having multiple eyes on a system setup can catch problems before they injure or kill someone. Gear failure is always a risk and not always something we can foresee even through safety checks. We are so careful and methodical when making sure our safety systems are in place, including a backup belay, should something go wrong with the rappel setup. However, in the moment that the student called up his harness broke, as the instructor at the top, I felt really helpless. If his entire harness failed and he fell, there was no amount of checking the belay, knots, and safety systems that could have prevented it. It is an enormous feeling of helplessness. We have made the decision to restrict all lightweight harnesses from our rock courses, and encourage other branches to do the same. At the bottom of the rappel, after word had spread of the incident, another student spoke up and exclaimed the same thing (popped leg loop) had failed on him using the same harness prior to the course.
12/May/2019	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Hit, Struck, Cut	rock fall, rock movement	foot/ankle	injury - bruises, contusions	Rock - technical, rope & protection needed		ASSISTANT LEADER We were setting up our final rappel out of the gully below yellow jacket. I was sitting above and next to a triangular "refrigerator sized" Boulder. It became evident that the boulder was loose as another climber approached so I told the party and stayed where I was to keep other climbers away. I am unsure how it happened - perhaps the sand below was destabilized in some way - but the boulder began to roll down and then over towards my legs. I moved out of the way but not in time to have my foot partially crushed by the boulder as it settled. I was able to quickly remove my foot and get away but it was clear I had injured it. My shirt and pants were torn where the boulder brushed past me. The party cleared the area around the boulder significantly and I rappelled out and walked the descent down. I went to the Leavenworth ER after confirming the party got down and learned that the foot only has a crushing injury and is not broken. PARTICIPANT As we were descending the sandy gully above the checkstone to our final rappel station we noticed significant rockfall. When we reached the rappel station, we noticed a small boulder shift in the sand. The boulder had a disk shape and was perhaps 4 feet in diameter. It was about ten feet above and to the climber's right of the rappel station. We started setting up the rappel. I was flaking rope and the next thing I knew the boulder was moving again, one participant did his best to get out of the way and direct it away from the group. He was unharmed. another participant was sitting near the boulder and it rolled into her arm, leg and foot. To my knowledge her arm was unharmed, leg had scrapes and bruising and foot/toes had significant bruising and swelling. Luckily, this participant was able to get out of the way before she got stuck or suffered more significant injuries. She was able to descend under her own power before going to urgent care in Leavenworth, where she fortunately learned that she had no broken bones.	ASSISTANT LEADER We could have moved further away from the boulder earlier. Honestly the whole gully is a bowling alley though. The party was aware it was loose but we didn't realize the extent. PARTICIPANT Once we first noticed the boulder move, we should have all gotten a safe distance away from it. Perhaps we could have considered an alternative rappel station away from the hazard, but I am unsure in any other viable rappel stations existed. Frankly, we were not expecting such significant rockfall hazards given the climber's rating and description (rockfall is only mentioned in connection with goats)-updating this information accordingly would benefit future climbers.
20/Apr/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Hit, Struck, Cut	rock fall, rock movement			off-trail, cross-country		As the first group of the field trip was on the scramble leaving the new Everett hill site, a rock larger than a head fell from the highest students straight down the line of students. The students at the top shouted ROCK with more and more urgency until the rock passed the last person (within a few feet). It was moving fast and would have hit someone if they hadn't been shouting warnings, and could have caused a serious injury because of the size and speed.	Reminder of the importance of shouting rock. It was the first group on a new site and it was spring time, so rock fall might be more likely than it would normally be. The group had finished climbing and had taken off their helmets. This is an opportunity to teach scrambling awareness in the climbing courses. It is also an opportunity to determine a rule of thumb for when helmets are required on a scramble. On snow it is whenever ice axes are out. On rock is it when you need to use your hands?
13/Apr/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	ice axe arrest needed / attempted	foot/ankle	injury - sprain, strain, tear	Snow - steep, ice axe, poles recommended	team ice axe arrest	Events/Diagnosis: During crevasse rescue practice, a participant injured her right ankle while attempting to stop a simulated fall as the middle person on the 3 person rope team around 2PM that day. As the MOFA lead, I was called over and began to assess the extent of the injury. Her history included a past injury (torn ligaments) to the same ankle. She said she felt a 8Kzpop8K sensation. No breaks that I could detect as she was able to move her foot back and forth against stress with slight pain. Side to side movement induced sharp pain. Determined that it could be a bad sprain or possibly ligament damage. Decided to keep her boot on so it would keep it compressed and act like a splint. She was able to walk/limp with my help to an area by our packs and I had her sit down and put on extra clothing to keep warm. She was not going to be able to continue 8K she was able to contact someone to come and get her. She was still cold so I assisted her down to the cars where she waited in another participant's van for her ride. Recommended that she seek a professional follow up if her condition does not improve. Results: Her ride arrived, and she was able to go. She contacted me later that evening with an ER diagnosis of a sprained/possible torn ligament in her ankle. Field Trip results: She was able to complete 8K% of the days events.	
30/Mar/2019	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment Issues, Party Issues, misunderstandin gs, organization	party issues - conflict, misunderstandin gs, organization			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed		While leading a cragging trip at the Sunshine Wall in Vantage we had a "near miss" incident involving a couple of our participants and the establishment of a top-rope belay. One participant had led "Ship 'em or Clip 'em" and had setup a top-rope. After lowering off she swapped ends and her follower tied-in. There was, apparently, some confusion during the establishment of the belay, and rather than putting the rope through her belay device, she instead just started pulling the rope in hand-over-hand. The climber started climbing, and she continued this way for some time. This was noticed by an adjacent climber who helped her re-establish the belay. I was climbing a route nearby and heard some of the exchange, but because I was on lead and focused on what I was doing, I did not witness the event. I heard about it after I got down and immediately went to talk with the party involved. We talked about the need to go through all of the steps when putting someone on belay, the climbing commands, checking each other out, etc. We then continued to climb the rest of the day. However, I am filing this report because I think this qualifies as a "near miss". The consequences of what would have happened had her follower fell while "top roping" the route are unthinkable. I am also attaching a much more thorough report of the incident another participant, who was belaying a climber himself only a few feet away and witnessed most of what happened.	Hopefully the lesson learned here is that no matter how experienced you become, you must never skip steps in establishing a viable belay. Your mind must not wander, you must not become careless or distracted. Obviously, it is up to both parties to go through the sequence of checking each other out. Is my harness on correctly? Am I tied in correctly? Is the rope through the belay device properly? Is it attached correctly to the belayer's harness? Am I on belay? Ok, "on belay", "your belay is on", "climbing!", "climb on!"
17/Mar/2019	Trip	Climbing	Assistance Given	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)			Snow - technical, glacier, rope needed	no injury reported	Mountaineers assisted rescue of a non-Mountaineer / private climber who fell into a fumarole hole.	Pay attention where you're walking; be prepared for all the chaos that can occur on a popular route on a good weather day.
25/Feb/2019	Field trip	Climbing	OTHER	Safety Concern	equipment issues			gym, artificial climbing walls, sports area		Last Monday (2/18) at skills night I was checking the Locking carabiners on the upper ledge in Goodman C and both lockers on the west side top rope were unlocked and one of the two on the east side was unlocked. With those odds, I figured the others that were unreachable to be suspect but didn't check. I tightened all the lockers I could reach. Tonight (2/25) one of the west side lockers was unlocked again! Obviously, something is going wrong here and the way they are situated make them unscraw.	Maybe we need to invest in auto lockers?
23/Feb/2019	Field trip	Climbing	Significant	Illness or Personal issues (conditioning, lack of skill)	injury/ illness - pre-existing condition	GENERAL - usually for illness, describe in narrative	illness - general, nausea, vertigo, flu	Inside a building or structure		Everett Basic Climbing Course - Fundamentals Field Trip on 23 February 2019 An older male student began exhibiting dizziness and physical weakness at the beginning of the field trip. The male student told me, the field trip leader, he had taken (unknown) medication and had experienced vertigo before driving to the field trip. I told the student if he continued to feel sick or weakness to stop further activity and contact me. The student said he felt fine and continued field trip activity (knot tying at that time). I continued to observe the male student as time progressed. Approximately three hours later, the male student's physical condition had declined further. The ill male student had stopped all field trip activity and was asked to walk and sit on the couch in the lobby of the Program Center. An Everett branch member attending the field trip with SAH medical training was contacted to conduct an interview with the ill male student to determine his condition. Subsequently a Basic Course student, a Nurse Practitioner, also evaluated the ill male student. Both individuals concluded the ill male student should seek immediate medical attention. After three vomiting episodes in the men's restroom the ill male student stated he was feeling OK so no call was made to 911. Instead the ill male student provided the name of his medical insurance provider and it was determined the nearest hospital/urgent care clinic was on Capital Hill, Seattle. However, the male student stated he wanted to go to his medical insurance provider's hospital/urgent care clinic in south Everett, near where the male student lived, so his vehicle was closer to his residence. A male instructor agreed to drive the ill male student to the south Everett hospital/urgent care clinic location using the ill male student's vehicle. The ill male student's emergency contact person on file with The Mountaineers was contacted and advised of the ill male student's condition and of the intent to transport him in his personal vehicle to the hospital/urgent care clinic in south Everett. It was later confirmed the male instructor did arrive at the south Everett hospital/urgent care clinic with the ill male student to seek further medical attention. At the time of this report submittal, the ill male student did obtain medical assistance and is fine.	The student should have recognized if he was experiencing vertigo before driving himself from Everett to the Program Center, he should not have driven himself to Seattle. Based on the transpired events on the morning of 23 February 2019, there does not appear to be anything that could have been done differently to avoid the incident or mitigated the outcome.
18/Aug/2018	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment Issues, Party Issues, misunderstanding	party issues - conflict, misunderstanding			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed	NOT CERTAIN THIS SHOULD BE COUNTED	One of the students was scrambling/ down climbing a 5.6+ class of rock without ropes, where the student had no prior rock exposure. With a significant drop below. Also another student had a huge rock kicked below (by another group) at him on the way down, which was more than 2 feet long and heavy	
12/Aug/2018	Trip	Climbing	Major	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)	MULTIPLE - usually for injury, describe in narrative	injury - fracture	Rock - technical, rope & protection needed		40-50 ft leader fall. Report from doctor: Broken ribs, sternum, and wrist. Air in the chest. We were climbing the South Face of Concord. A participant was anchored at the base of the 4c-shark fin on the South side. Another participant was leading the third (final) pitch, and was ascending the 4c-8s awkward flaring crack. 8K He was out of view from the rest of the party. According to him, he was attempting to pull onto the summit of Concord Tower, when the alpine draw from his last piece of protection clipped onto his leg loop preventing further upward progress. While attempting to unclip this carabiner from his leg loop he fell, pulling with him the protection piece (pink tricam). He had placed another tricam into the same horizontal crack to aid with, but he did not secure his rope to this piece. As Ryan fell, he screamed loudly enough that the whole team heard. As he screamed, the belayer moved backward as much as his tether to the anchor would allow, and braced for the catch. We believe the climber fell approximately 20 feet to the ledge at which his last piece of protection (after the pink tricam pulled out) was located (this piece was a slung tree). It is here that we believe the climber landed on his wrist and back, then continued to fall/slide/fall down slabby ramps another 20-30 feet until his rope became taut. The time was approximately 3 PM. After the belayer completed fall arrest, he pulled rope through his belay device while progressing to the crest of the shark fin. He called to climber to ask if he was ok. Climber said he had broken his wrist. A party across from the route, on Liberty Bell called over and said that climber had landed on his back. Belayer acknowledged climber's probable broken wrist and asked about any other injuries he believed he might have sustained. Climber seemed lucid and is a trained EMT. At this time, belayer could not see climber. Climber requested to be lowered a few feet so that we was resting on a ledge, belayer lowered him. The party on Liberty Bell asked if they should call 911; climber responded to them and declined their offer. Belayer asked climber if he provided a fixed line, would be able to ascend. He said he would be unable. Belayer descended from the shark fin on the South side back towards his anchor and called to second rope team who were still approaching on the second pitch. After a few minutes, second team arrived, they had heard climber's scream but were otherwise unaware of any situational details. Belayer described the situation as was known and the three formulated a plan of action. Second team climb together frequently and work together fluidly, for this reason belayer and another exchanged places, the other taking over belay (easy as there was some slack in the system with climber sitting on the ledge). Other two prepared to climb to the base of the summit block. One called down to climber letting him know they would be there within ten minutes. Another led out along the shark fin, she arrived at the base of the summit block slinging a tree for an anchor (the same tree that had become climber's last piece). Another followed the short pitch. A pair fixed one end of their rope to the anchor and another rappelled down to climber. Once he reached climber, attendant checked climber's torso and back for injuries. Climber complained of some pain in his ribs and had many abrasions on his back, but no deep wounds or bruising, and his spine seemed to be unaffected by the fall. Climber said he did not believe he hit his head during the fall. His helmet appeared untouched. At climber's request, attendant pulled a jacket from his pack, and a cordelette, and created a sling for climber's arm. Attendant told climber about the plan to haul him up to the anchor, and rappelled down the South face of Concord, and once again asked climber if he wanted a professional rescue, he declined. Climber declined an offer for a jacket for warmth. Climber accepted an offer for a splint, so attendant made a crude splint using two chock-pick tools and a length of perlon.	Attendant clipped a loop of rope to climber's belay loop and ascended to the anchor. At the anchor, Daniel and Jill created a 6:1 drop-loop haul system and began pulling climber to the anchor. Climber was able to stand and keep his feet in front/under him during the haul, though it was clear that he was in a lot of pain and could only move very slowly. One, still managing climber's belay with the other rope, took in slack as climber was brought higher. Once climber was brought to the anchor, he was secured to the anchor and given a jacket for warmth (now in the shade). A tandem rappel was necessary to get climber off the route. Not wanting to trust the current (small tree) anchor with the task, and knowing there were bolts on the summit, team belayed up the short pitch to the summit block. While one was setting up the rappel, another belayed third over to the current anchor. One rappelled off the summit block, back to tree anchor and began setting up the tandem rappel system. Another ascended the rappel ropes to the summit block, trailing the rope he was still tied into. Once climber was secured to the rappel system, team untied climber's rope from his harness. Attendant and climber were ready to rappel. Because they were not directly under the bolted anchor on the summit, we knew that a swing was inevitable. In order to control this as much as possible, the tail of the second rope was clove hitched with a locking carabiner to tandem's extended rappel loop, and run through another's belay device (who was anchored to the tree anchor). As attendant and climber stepped off the ledge onto the South face, third slowly let out rope to get them to a neutral hanging position. Once a neutral position was achieved, attendant removed the clove hitch and continued the rappel as third pulled the second rope back up. Third tied into the second rope, broke down the tree anchor, and fourth belayed him to the summit. At this time, because of the indirect routing of the rappel rope, tandem (attendant and climber) were nearly out of rope and could not reach the next rappel station. Attendant yelled up to the summit indicating such. Top team set up a second rappel with the second rope on a second pair of bolts, and third rappelled down to tandem team. A second tandem rappel system was created and climber's weight was transferred from attendant's rappel to third's rappel. Third and climber rappelled down to the next rappel station and secured themselves to the anchor chains. Prior attendant was able to stand on a flake and unweight her rope enough so that top, on the summit, could flick the rope to the correct orientation so that she could reach the rappel station. Once top arrived at the rappel station and was secured to the anchor, she pulled her rappel rope while a party member ran it through the chains to setup the next rappel. Once the rope was setup, top again setup her tandem rappel system. After safety checks, in order to lower climber onto the rappel (at a position below top), he was connected via a cordelette to his belay loop to a munter hitch on the anchor and slowly lowered until he was hanging on top's rappel system. New tandem (top and climber) began rappelling to the base of the tower. Participant rappelled down to next, they pulled the first rappel rope, and then both rappelled to the base of the tower. The time was approximately 5:30 PM. Climber took some Bupropfen and Tylenol, while top assisted him with changing his shoes and getting ready for the hike out. Another created a better splint for climber's wrist using a foam sit-pad. Climber started down the gully as the team stowed gear and then joined him shortly. Progress down the gully was slow at first, but quickened as the Bupropfen/Tylenol took effect, and the terrain eased. The team got to the trailhead parking lot at approximately 8 PM. Several had carpooled to the climb, so they all drove to Overlake hospital in Bellevue at climber's request. Two were lower at the hospital, around 11:30 PM after confirmation that his girlfriend would be meeting him there shortly. Climber could have placed more protection (better protecting the crux), which would have mitigated the fall.
14/Jul/2018	Trip	Climbing	Near Miss	Logistics, Equipment Issues, Party Issues	equipment issues			off-trail, cross-country		On day one of our three day trip, one participant did not secure her backpack and allowed it to roll of a moraine near White Pass. We were about to descend toward the base of White Chuck Glacier. The participant held onto an ice axe and helmet. The pack rolled off the cliff in the general direction of our travels so a decision was made to continue toward our first night's camp but send a two person team behind us about 300 yards and look for the pack. This team remained in our sight at all times. Though they did find the pack, the tent poles were missing. This was not noted until we had reached our camping area after a long day hiking in the heat. Due to the time of day and how tired the team was feeling my decision was to not go back and look for the tent poles. With the help of various team members and lots of gear, we made a frame for their tent that survived for the two days we camped at this location. On the way out we passed close to the packs fall location and a second team found the tent poles stuck in the rocks slightly higher than where the pack was located. The pack rolled about 200 feet total and not visible until we came off the ridge.	The participant learned critical importance of securing one's pack in an area where it may roll or slide. Team learned how to build a tent with just rope and hiking poles. Total loss of the pack may have required the group to turn around or at a minimum, leave this participant in camp on summit day due to a lack of required gear.

CORRECTED Activity Start Date	CORRECTED Activity Category	CORRECTED Activity	CORRECTED Incident Type	CORRECTED Incident Category	ADDED Incident specifics	ADDED Injury/Illness Location	ADDED Injury/Illness	CORRECTED Terrain	Notes	CLEANED Incident report	CLEANED lessons-learned
24/Sep/2017	Field trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)	foot/ankle	injury - sprain, strain, tear	gym, artificial climbing walls, sports area		<p>LEADER A student was climbing on an artificial outdoor climbing wall during a sport climbing course activity. The individual was lead climbing. The goal for the day was learning how to fall on lead correctly/correctly. The individual purposefully took a lead fall and when coming back to the wall their ankle impacted the wall resulting in an ambulatory injury to their ankle. The individual completed the remainder of the day doing ground practice and belaying.</p> <p>STUDENT On September 24, 2017, I was a student in the "Introduction to Leading on Bolted Routes Workshop - Mountaineers Tacoma Program Center." While we were in Tacoma, I was in a class of Olympia Mountaineers. I got injured. Initially did not check "safety incident" on the feed back form (won't explain my thinking on that), but wrote about it in a different spot on that form. The Olympia climbing chair suggested I do this and let the leaders review it.</p> <p>So here's what happened: We were practicing falls while leading a route on the outside walls at the Tacoma Center. I had climbed and clipped in on two previous ones to do lower falls, and successfully "took" a fall twice at a lower level. The instructors guided me up for my third fall, wanted me a body length above my last clip, and directed me to the spot to drop, with my feet next to the clip (maybe a little higher, can't remember for sure). I was obviously worried about it and hesitated a lot, and had the leaders advising how to get in the frame of mind and stating it would be safe, to not grab the rope as I go, etc.</p> <p>When I dropped, my right ankle and foot got hurt, somehow jammed harder than the other, and it began swelling up. I couldn't put much weight on it, when I did it hurt. I could hobble around. I went to the doctor the next day, and it was swollen and sprained, with bruising on the right side off ankle and left bottom of foot. X-ray did not show any fractures.</p> <p>I got prescription for a month of physical therapy. In the second week, they were concerned it didn't seem to be clearing up as well as expected, I went to the doctor again, who then scheduled me for a podiatrist this Friday. It's been 16 days and I still have considerable pain when crunching the ankle or extending the foot, pointing the toes all the way out), especially going down steps and down hill, with pain across the top of the foot and where the top of the foot meets the ankle. I had crutches for a couple of days, but general flat walking is fine.</p>	<p>LEADER Climbing on lead is inherently dangerous. Climbing a more overhanging route could have mitigated the impact taken on the fall due to falling into space. On the other side of that is, can the student climb an overhanging route? If not, this skill is prudent to safe sport climbing and falling still remains a hazard and is more hazardous on non-overhanging routes.</p> <p>STUDENT On the accident itself, I clearly wasn't prepared and practiced enough. If this highest drop is to remain part of the class, to prevent it happening again, I would recommend more practice at a lower level and putting emphasis on bending the knees as the student is coming back to the wall to absorb some of the impact (my doctor said most people my age are avoiding sudden impacts to their skeletal structure, not volunteering for them) I'm 65).</p> <p>I wonder, too, if the highest drop is necessary to get the concepts of falling, and whether or not repeated practice on lower drops could do it, or if the highest drop could be only for volunteers but not an expectation of the class. I'm not sure how critical it is to the class to drop from as high as I did.</p>
24/Sep/2017	Field trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	equipment issues			gym, artificial climbing walls, sports area trail		<p>Some of the bolt hangers are loose at the top of the South Wall at the Program Center. There were also some loose holds. We tightened up some of the holds. Is there a maintenance plan for keeping these things in good shape. Who is responsible for this. We could have tightened the nuts on the bolt hangers but we were concerned that we were not supposed to do this because we did not have a good knowledge about what is backing up the bolts and were concerned about tightening them up too much.</p>	
10/Sep/2017	Trip	Climbing	OTHER	Informational	OTHER					<p>We encountered an abandoned or lost, aggressive dog about 1.5 miles up the Snow Lake Trail. The dog had on a leash and a backpack - clearly belonged to someone, but there was no owner in sight. We looked around the area and shouted to see if the owner was nearby, worrying that perhaps the owner had stepped off the trail to go to the bathroom and had fallen down to the creek. We were unable to find anyone or any signs of a person. The dog didn't appear to be seriously injured, but was obviously upset. It barked and growled aggressively and didn't let us near it. We called 911 to report the dog, and they said they would send a ranger or someone from animal control. We then left the scene, feeling that there was nothing more we could really do. The dog was gone when we returned from the climb that evening. I later read on the Facebook "Washington Hikers and Climbers" group that someone had been able to walk the dog back out. I don't know if the owner was found though.</p>	<p>I feel we handled the situation appropriately. I think it would have been dangerous to try to approach the dog, but I'm glad we were able to at least contact authorities.</p>
26/Aug/2017	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	fall (travel a distance)	knee	injury - sprain, strain, tear	off-trail, cross-country		<p>When attempting to obtain our permit for the Thunder Basin camp there were no fire closures listed in the area but the rangers said the area was closed for fire. This forced us to choose our backup climb of Cosho/Kimtah.</p> <p>We decided to camp at the Ragged Ridge camp to avoid losing several thousand feet of elevation from Easy Pass. This requires a reported 1.5 miles of cross country side hill travel, mostly class 2 with very short class 3 steps on traverse. Time estimate from Easy Pass to camp is 1.5 hours. Several members of the team were struggling with side hiking and it took us 5.5 hours to reach camp. Upon reaching camp and assessing the condition of the team, while knowing that we had a longer more exposed traverse ahead of us to the Col between Cosho and Kimtah, I told the team that I was cancelling the climb and that our only objective for the second day would be to get back to the main trail and home safely. There was no dissent from the group. After a leisurely breakfast the next morning (08/27/17) we packed up and headed out around 8:30AM.</p> <p>With nobody wanting to endure the side hiking back to Easy Pass, I opted (based on Summitpost beta and GPS Topo Map) to take a different scramble route down to the main trail from camp. Finding our way out while never exceeding class 2 terrain was going well and it was much better than the side hiking option, but there were sections of steep vegetated terrain with many Marmot holes. Having been in similar situations I warned the group to be extra cautious of these holes as they sometimes can't be seen in the vegetation. Around 9:45AM as we reached the final short vegetated slope before our rock field exit, (student) stepped on the top of a marmot hole. As the top half of the hole collapsed she had no friction on the hill and slid 6-8 feet down the hill to the top of the rock field. I saw the fall, but the reason why it occurred is based on student's description.</p> <p>I asked if she was OK and after the third repeat question she said "I felt my knee pop" but was able to immediately stand and walk over to me. After some short discussion with her about the pain level and stability of her knee, we decided to keep moving. Shortly after the fall we reached a flat area where student used an ace bandage to wrap her knee, no swelling was noticeable but she said that it was sensitive and that she had taken ibuprofen. The group took a large portion of her gear to lighten her load and we continued down to the main trail without further incident. Student was able to hike about 6 miles (1500' gain, 2800' loss) back to the Easy Pass trail head by 2:45PM and the group went for early dinner in Marblemount. After dinner student was noticeably limping and said she would go to a Walk In Clinic the next morning.</p> <p>Student did notify me today (08/28/17) that she has been to the doctor and that it was diagnosed as a knee sprain. She was told to rest for 1 week.</p>	<p>1 : Calling the ranger station ahead of time may have allowed time to research more backup climb options, but I do not know when the fire closure went into affect as it's still not listed.</p> <p>2 : While the terrain chosen was within the ability of the group it was tedious, and fatigue certainly played a role in the incident.</p>
19/Aug/2017	Field trip	Climbing	Assistance given	Safety Concern	water incident - capsizel, immersion			water - stream, creek, river		<p>Upon exiting the lower Coleman camp, the water was running as high as I have ever seen it. The water looked brown, the color of hot chocolate with soil and sediment churning. The regular crossing was impassable, so we hiked up stream to the base of a waterfall where we waded across a broader pool. The water was still running fairly fast, but the depth was only knee high. A young family with 3 small children was trapped and following behind us. My guests in their ages were 4- 10. After crossing, I tossed my pack on the bank and waded back to assist. One participant placed himself down stream, in a position to render assistance if any got swept off their feet. The father was attempting to cross with the youngest child riding piggy back. He was about to cross the narrowest section thinking it would be easier, but I warned him it would be deeper and likely to sweep him off his feet. I managed to reason with him and instructed him to cross where we did. I stood mid-stream and spotted them as each made their way across.</p>	<p>In hind sight, that water crossing was the riskiest part of the day, and no doubt other hikers were still caught on the other side behind us. Someone had earlier tied a fixed 6-7 mm hand line across the regular crossing, which was clearly dangerous to cross at this point. When we descended back to that point to get back onto the trail, there were a half dozen late day hikers milling around the bank, likely contemplating crossing. What little swift water training I did have had taught me that hand lines like this provide a false sense of security and are very dangerous to clip to. IMO, that was an accident waiting to happen, and I regret not taking the hand line down. We went in knowing that swift water would be running higher in the afternoon when we crossed to exit. That was an accepted risk for us, and we were well equipped and experienced for this. I doubt the family and others trapped on the other side went in eyes wide open about the water hazard and harms way they were placing themselves in when they crossed the stream earlier in the day.</p>
19/Aug/2017	Field trip	Climbing	Assistance given	Safety Concern	water incident - capsizel, immersion			water - stream, creek, river		<p>Upon exiting the lower Coleman camp, the water was running as high as I have ever seen it. The water looked brown, the color of hot chocolate with soil and sediment churning. The regular crossing was impassable, so we hiked up stream to the base of a waterfall where we waded across a broader pool. The water was still running fairly fast, but the depth was only knee high. A young family with 3 small children was trapped and following behind us. My guests in their ages were 4- 10. After crossing, I tossed my pack on the bank and waded back to assist. One of us placed himself down stream, in a position to render assistance if any got swept off their feet. The father was attempting to cross with the youngest child riding piggy back. He was about to cross the narrowest section thinking it would be easier, but I warned him it would be deeper and likely to sweep him off his feet. I managed to reason with him and instructed him to cross where we did. I stood mid-stream and spotted them as each made their way across.</p>	<p>In hind sight, that water crossing was the riskiest part of the day, and no doubt other hikers were still caught on the other side behind us. Someone had earlier tied a fixed 6-7 mm hand line across the regular crossing, which was clearly dangerous to cross at this point. When we descended back to that point to get back onto the trail, there were a half dozen late day hikers milling around the bank, likely contemplating crossing. What little swift water training I did have had taught me that hand lines like this provide a false sense of security and are very dangerous to clip to. IMO, that was an accident waiting to happen, and I regret not taking the hand line down. We went in knowing that swift water would be running higher in the afternoon when we crossed to exit. That was an accepted risk for us, and we were well equipped and experienced for this. I doubt the family and others trapped on the other side went in eyes wide open about the water hazard and harms way they were placing themselves in when they crossed the stream earlier in the day.</p>
11/Aug/2017	Trip	Climbing	Major	Slip, Fall, Capsize	ice axe arrest needed / attempted	MULTIPLE - usually for injury, describe in narrative	injury - laceration, abrasion, puncture	Snow - technical, glacier, rope needed	ER visit, CT scan	<p>LEADER Our Shukan/Fisher Chimney climb was going to be a three day climb. We obtained a permit to camp two nights up at high camp located just before getting on the Curtis Glacier. However, there was significant weather coming in on our third day and we decided to summit, return to camp pack up and head down either to camp at Lake Ann or out to the TH depending on how tired we were. We did not want to climb in the rain. We all made the summit and got back to camp around 2:30 - 3:00 which was much later than I expected, but we all packed up and started down. We got down through the first two chimneys and everyone stated they were still feeling good. We got to our first snowfield to cross. We had to climb up onto the snowfield and maybe take 10 or 15 steps to cross an area that was steep but it quickly became flat. I had everyone get their ice ax out and wanted to check the conditions to see if it has become icy or hard. One member got up on the snowfield and stated it was still soft and looks good. Another member got up on the snowfield next, took one step and slipped and fell. She tried to arrest but because of her backpack she wasn't able to roll over. She slid down the snowfield about 150 feet. It was still very soft snow. However, when she hit the talus field she rolled about 3 times on the rocks. Her backpack hit the talus field first which took the brunt force. She laid there for a second before moving. I immediately grabbed my backpack and crossed the snowfield and headed down to her. I told her to just sit there and not move I will be right there. By the time I got to her she was standing and walking in my direction. I had her sit on a rock, took her backpack off and did a full assessment. She was alert and oriented, able to move all extremities. She had multiple scratches on her hands, arms, left side of her face, and one large laceration on her left knee. She was able to bend her knee and bear weight on that leg. No numbness or loss of feeling in her legs or arms. No difficulty in breathing no signs of head trauma. We placed band-aids on some of her wounds on her hands. I bandaged up her knee with a Adv. kelvix roll and an ace bandage to give her support. She was answering all my questions appropriately and she started she is able to keep hiking out. We took weight out of her backpack and shared it with the rest of the group. We decided to keep hiking out as long as she still feels like she can. She is very tough, despite her injuries she still wanted to keep moving. We hiked the entire way back to the TH arriving around 11:30pm. We all kept checking in on her and reassessing her condition. I was worried about any internal injuries and most of all head injury, but no signs of either one. Once out we drove back towards Seattle, however, we had to stop and sleep a couple of hours in the car. We all were way too tired to continue to drive. I took her to Evergreen Hospital Emergency Department to be assessed. By this time it is about 12 hours after she had fallen. This fall is considered Trauma so she needed to have a full assessment done. Evergreen Hospital perform CT scan on her head and x-ray of her left knee, which all came back normal. They cleaned her wound and she ended up having 13 stitches. She was started on antibiotics because the wound was large and had been open which increase the chance of an infection. Besides her laceration on her knee the only other complaint was her neck due to the whiplash. I have been in contact with her that last two days and she is feeling much better. Neck pain has diminished and her knee is healing fine.</p> <p>Participant This happened when we were descending the Fisher Chimneys. We stopped at the bottom of the second chimney. We did not have crampons, because we have just finished down climbing. Below us was a moderately steep snow slope and after it a rocky slope. There was a moat between the bottom of the chimney where we stood and the snow slope. There was an easy way to climb up from the moat to the snow. One of our climbers climbed up on the snow and said that she can see the path. She went a little further on that path to the snow. Our assistant leader also climbed up from the moat onto the snow to look. She had her backpack on and her snow axe. The bit of snow near the moat was steeper than the overall slope. She slipped on it and slid down the slope for about 15 meters, until she reached a rocky slope. She rolled on the rocks several times. I did not see how she slipped. At the top of the snow above the moat was not visible for people standing close to the moat on the rocks. After she slid I stepped up a little on the snow and saw her slide on the snow and roll on the rocks.</p>	<p>LEADER I was very impressed with this whole group. They all were very strong and we worked well as a team. I believe one reason she fell was because we were tired from summiting that day and we knew we had a long way to go. I should have required everyone to put on crampons, but we all crossed it on the way up without crampons and no one had any difficulties. I should have been the first person up on the snowfield to assess it. I believe we all felt it was such a short distance and the snow was soft that we wouldn't have any problems crossing it.</p> <p>There was one more snowfield and a moat to cross but we were able to skirt around both of them and not put ourselves in a situation that could result in another fall. We all were very cautious and continued to assist each other in the harder sections.</p> <p>Every time I go out I always have lessons to learn. My insight here is that with any basic group I need to be extra cautious and just put on my crampons, set up extra belays just because you never know. Subject is an intermediate climber and I have climbed with her many times. I wasn't worried about her at all, but it doesn't matter how good you are accidents can still happen.</p> <p>Spending the extra night would have been better. We all would have been well rested, but with the weather coming in it would have made it more difficult to get down.</p>
30/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	rappel			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed	1 of 2 reports	<p>This leader is concerned with how basic students have used the extended rappel with autoblock on this climb and other climbs. Some students are rappelling with just one hand only (on the autoblock). This seems to be potentially unsafe if the climber slips/trips/whatever, because the natural instinct could be to grab onto the autoblock, and if you are only rappelling with one hand only, then you won't stop quickly and could "fall". The basic students have told me that they were taught to only use one hand.</p> <p>Also, I have seen many extended rappels done improperly, including attaching the personal anchor to the harness belay loop instead of two hard points, and attaching the prussik for the autoblock to the leg portion of the harness, not the belay loop. The students are telling me there is great variation on how to do it, depending upon who the course instructor is.</p>	<p>Consistent teaching in the course of how to use the extended rappel with autoblock. I recommend having two hands on the rope.</p>
29/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Slip not resulting in a fall	foot/ankle	injury - sprain, strain, tear	trail	1 of 3 reports	<p>1) Short... Participant sprained ankle on trail at very beginning of trip, they turned around and went home. They went to see a doctor, it was just a sprain.</p> <p>Long... At the very beginning of the trip one of the participants twisted her ankle on the trail, about 5 minutes from the cars. It was before sunrise with headlamps. She wasn't paying attention and the trail had a few dips which were hard to see. She stepped into one, twisted her ankle, then fell lower off the trail. She tried continuing for a couple minutes but had to turn around. Her husband was on the trip and he went back with her.</p>	
29/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Slip, Fall, Capsize	Slip not resulting in a fall	knee	injury - bruises, contusions	off-trail, cross-country	2 of 3 reports	<p>2) Basic Glacier climb Sahale Peak TH</p> <p>I slipped on a wet rock slab and hit a knee on the rock. It didn't start to hurt until almost back at the cars. It didn't impact the trip outcome at all. I got an x-ray after I got home and the bones were fine, just a lot of swelling in the knee.</p>	
29/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Hit, Struck, Cut	rock fall, rock movement	foot/ankle	injury - bruises, contusions	off-trail, cross-country	3 of 3 reports	<p>3) LEADER Short... A person in our group knocked a small rock and it fell about 15 feet then hit my leg. No visible issues at the time. It didn't impact the trip outcome at all. I got an x-ray after I got home and the bones were fine, just some swelling and a bone bruise.</p> <p>Long... On the descent, right after the rappel, a person above me knocked a small-ish rock down and it hit my leg. She yelled "rock" but I couldn't get out of the way fast enough. It hurt a LOT for a minute or so, then felt better. There was no blood or visible issues, so I continued. A few hours later at the cars after I took off my sock, there was a 1" diameter bloody scab, and there was a lot of swelling. I got an x-ray after I got home and the bones were fine, just a bone bruise.</p> <p>PARTICIPANT I accidentally kicked a rock down on the descent and it hit a participant in the ankle. He said he was okay after we stopped and assessed his condition. He had some bruising around the area when the rock impacted, but he was in overall good shape when we reached the cars.</p>	<p>PARTICIPANT We could have stayed a bit closer together so that we could have shortened the distance the rock rolled before hitting participant.</p>
25/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Near miss	Slip, Fall, Capsize	rappel			Rock - technical, rope & protection needed		<p>a basic climbing student, was finishing his last rappel. He was near to the ground (within a foot), but slipped/lost his balance. It looked like he took a small pendulum into the rock next to him when off balance. He was unhurt.</p>	<p>I think person who kicked rock was tired, and relaxed his guard as he reached the ground. Next time, I would encourage a student to maintain vigilance, even when the rappel is virtually over.</p>
22/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Significant	Hit, Struck, Cut	hit/cut - natural object	knee	injury - laceration, abrasion,	Snow - non-technical		<p>Student punched through the snow near rocks and hit his knee. The impact split his knee open.</p>	<p>Try to avoid crossings snowfields where rocks are showing through.</p>
21/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Critical	Slip, Fall, Capsize	rappel	MULTIPLE - usually for injury, describe in narrative	MULTIPLE	Rock - technical, rope & protection needed	Fatality	<p>While descending the west ridge of Forbidden after successfully summiting, an experienced Mountaineers climber performed a diagonal rappel to one side of the natural fall line. She lost her footing and a large pendulum resulted in blunt force trauma that caused her to lose consciousness, and without an autoblock or knots in the ends of the rappel rope, she slipped down the rope and off the end.</p> <p>Based on the information from a thorough investigation, the primary cause of this fatality incident was the pendulum caused by rappelling well off of the fall line and the secondary cause was not employing backup systems to protect from sliding off the end of the rope (e.g., placing knots in the rope ends or using an autoblock).</p>	<p>There are clear opportunities for sharing key lessons learned with The Mountaineers climbing community. Mountaineers climb programs have an opportunity to train for: * risks associated with increasing potential energy when leaving a rappel fall line; increased lateral forces on footing; the potential for larger and more forceful than expected pendulums. * further reinforce intermediate-level alternative rappel techniques—requiring a higher level of climbing skill and experience—such as the saddle bag rope carrying technique to prevent ropes with knots in the ends from becoming stuck when on rappel. * increased repetition of the use of autoblocks to ensure they can be accomplished with a smooth rappel. * even more clearly guard against allowing the halo effect to prevent speaking up about risk management concerns and techniques.</p> <p>Bottom line, if choosing to rappel, one should always rappel on closed system, employ an autoblock or other suitable backup friction hitch, and/or rappel the fall line.</p>
18/Jul/2017	Trip	Climbing	Safety Concern	Other	rock fall, rock movement			Rock - non-technical, scramble skills needed		<p>A climber descending a gully knocked at large rock, about two feet across (see picture), loose and toward the climbers waiting below. Initially the rock appeared to be going down the fall line and directly toward the climbers. Realizing this, two of them sprinted climber's right to avoid the rock. About the same time the rock decided to bounce climber's right right toward them again. It bounced back toward the fall line and suddenly came to a stop less in front of where they were originally standing.</p>	<p>Although I was repeating loose rock warnings often, it might of been beneficial for me to have descended first and directly overseen group movement directing waiting climbers to find a safer spot and to tell descending climbers not to be directly over other climbers. Another thing I would have done differently is made the least sure footed individual descend first. The gully was at the bottom of a rappel and they rappelled in order of who was ready first. Also, it was not until later I found out the individual that knocked the rock down had some severe foot pain from an activity they did earlier in the week. This may have contributed to knocking the rock loose. If I were to do this again I would reduce the number of participants to no more than four because of the rock fall hazard and I would keep the group together tighter on loose rock. I will also do a better job of getting participants to disclose any type of injury that might affect their performance.</p>

