

The Mountaineers Safety Committee Recommendations for 2012

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Content and organization

- Mission of The Mountaineers Safety Committee
- Recommendations
 - *All participants must communicate and participate within abilities*
 - *Leaders should cultivate an environment of engaging participants*
 - *Watch for and report persistent issues*
- Near misses and lessons learned
- For more information – additional resources

The purpose of the Safety Committee is to promote a culture of safety among The Mountaineers.

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

Thanks to leaders and participants for reporting these incidents!

- Kudos for taking the time to record your observations – they are valuable
- All Mountaineers learn through reading incident reports
- We need more reports, please!

1. All participants must communicate and participate within abilities

- We are all responsible for each other's and our own safety
- All participants are responsible for speaking up – never walk past an unsafe act
- Be aware of your own capabilities and limitations, and choose activities accordingly
- Maintain adequate conditioning and skills for the activities you pursue

2. Leaders should cultivate an environment of engaging participants

- Leaders set the tone for trips
- Leaders should set expectations for activities so participants understand what is expected of them (skills, conditioning)
- Leaders should remain aware of the group and the environment and be ready to modify plans for changes in conditions

3. Watch for and report persistent issues

- Falls and slips dominate incidents
- Most reported falls and slips occur on nontechnical terrain – trails and approaches
- Gravity pulls – most happen on downhills
- Tiredness on descent could be a factor
- Falls on snow are still a concern over many years
- Ice axe injuries continue to occur

Near misses and lessons learned

- Several near misses that could have had serious consequences (but didn't ... this time)
- We all need to be aware of the conditions of the areas around us and the team
- We need to look out for each other – do not pass an unsafe act
 - Leaders and participants alike

For more information

- www.mountaineers.org
 - About Us – Safety
- www.mountaineers.org/safety/default.cfm
 - Annual safety reports (5 years)
 - Annual safety recommendations
 - Safety Highlights (5 to 10 per year)
- safety@mountaineers.org

Safety Highlights

Annual safety reports 1 – Incidents 2 – Recommendations

Safety

Safety Committee Purposes

The purposes of the Safety Committee are to ensure that Mountaineers activities such as climbing, kayaking, and skiing have access to and follow current safety standards, to provide resources for education and training of our leaders and instructors, and to ensure that collection of data on accidents and near misses is performed, documented, maintained and distributed to our leaders. These purposes share the goal of enhancing a Club structure and culture of safety such that The Mountaineers continues to be recognized as a leader in safety for outdoor activities. (from [Board Policy 322](#))

Emergency contact procedures

First call 911, and ask to be transferred to the Sheriff of the county you are in (or National Park Service for Rainier, Olympics, & North Cascades) for a Search and Rescue (SAR).

Then call the The Mountaineers at (206) 521-6030.

[View or download the Mountaineers Emergency Contact Procedures](#) (PDF, 13kb)

[View or download the First Aid Report Form](#) (PDF, 173kb)

For questions or comments about the Safety Program, or to report any near miss or incident, please send an email to safety@mountaineers.org

Safety Information

[Safety Highlights](#) - Notes about Mountaineer incidents

Annual Safety Reports and Recommendations

[2011 Annual Safety Report](#)
(PDF, 117kb)

[2011 Safety Recommendations](#)
(PDF, 69kb)

[2010 Annual Safety Report](#)
(PDF, 114kb)

[2010 Safety Recommendations](#)
(PDF, 89kb)

[2009 Annual Safety Report](#)
(PDF, 144kb)

[2009 Safety Recommendations](#)
(PDF, 198kb)

[2008 Annual Safety Report](#)
(PDF, 96kb)

[2008 Safety Recommendations](#)
(PDF, 138kb)

[2007 Annual Safety Report](#)



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Safety Highlights



Charles Lozner photo
(The Enchantments)

The Mountaineers - Safety Highlights Archive

- February 2014 [Backcountry Ski Self Rescue](#)
- January 2013 [Almost Toast? Munter Rappel Goes Bad](#)
- January 2013 [Concussed! Snow Falling From Cedars](#)
- December 2012 [Dragonair Peak Rescue Assist](#)
- December 2012 [Indoor Ice Climbing](#)
- November 2012 [Falling On Trail](#)
- October 2012 [Leader Fall](#)
- September 2012 [Glissade leads to Rescue](#)

[Back to main Safety page](#)



[Visit/Return To: Safety Highlights web page](#)

Safety Highlight – Concussed! Snow Falling From Cedars

Lessons from Mountaineer Incidents

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

Identifying information has been removed or disguised.

-- Dave Shema, Seattle Branch Safety Officer

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

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

The student involved in this incident provided some suggestions.

January, 21, 2012 - east side of the Gold Creek Winter Recreation Area, Snoqualmie Pass

Injuries: head trauma with possible concussion
Cause of Accident: Snow/ice falling from tree

We are all responsible for safety

The Mountaineers Safety Committee