

Overview of The Mountaineers Annual Safety Report for 2013

Prepared by the Mountaineers Safety Committee:

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Content and organization

- Introduction and purpose
- Summary statistics
- Major incidents
- Significant incidents
- Summary of minor incidents
- For more information – additional resources

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

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

Incident types

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

Incident categories

- Fall/slip
 - Nontechnical terrain (trail, approach)
 - Snow
 - Stream
 - Rock
 - Ice
- Hit/cut
 - Snow/ice
 - Tree
 - Rock
 - Equipment (ice axe)
 - Other person
- Illness/preparation
 - Head/eye/nose
 - Back
 - Leg/knee/ankle/foot
 - Shoulder/arm/hand
 - Fatigue/weakness/conditioning/flu/cold
 - Gastrointestinal/heart/organs
 - Heat/dehydration
 - Cold/hypothermia
 - Bugs
 - Unspecified

Incident categories (cont'd)

- Logistics
 - Routefinding/overdue
 - Party split
 - Automobile
 - Conflict with other party
- Informational
 - Equipment limit or lack
 - Major rock fall
 - Observed avalanches nearby
 - Fire nearby
 - Route conditions
 - Assist other party
- Near miss or lessons learned
 - Equipment limit or lack
 - Party-caused rock fall
 - Rockfall near or on party
 - Avalanches near or on party
 - Fire affecting party
 - Route conditions
- Other
- Boating
 - Kayak flip
 - Drowning

Summary Statistics 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Fall/Slip	9	7	41	57
Hit/Cut	1	1	6	8
Illness/preparation	3	2	26	31
Boating	1	0	1	2
Logistics	0	5	8	13
Near Miss	0	0	4	4
Informational	0	0	13	13
Total	14	15	99	128

Fall/slip incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Nontechnical terrain	1	2	16	19
Snow	1	3	19	23
Stream	0	0	0	0
Rock	6	2	5	13
Ice	1	0	1	2
Total	9	7	41	57

Hit/cut incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Equipment	0	0	1	1
Snow/ice	0	1	0	1
Tree	1	0	0	1
Rock	0	0	1	1
Other person	0	0	2	2
Other object	0	0	2	2
Total	1	1	6	8

Illness/preparation incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Head/eye/nose	1	0	1	2
Back	0	1	0	1
Leg/knee/ankle/ foot	0	0	3	3
Shoulder/arm /hand	1	0	1	2
Fatigue/weakness/con ditioning/flu/cold	0	0	8	8
Gastrointestinal/ heart/organs	1	1	0	2
Heat/dehydration	0	0	3	3
Cold/hypothermia	0	0	1	1
Bugs	0	0	6	6
Unspecified	0	0	3	3
Total	3	2	26	31

Boating incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Kayak flip	0	0	0	0
Hit obstacle	0	0	1	1
Drowning	1	0	0	1
Total	1	0	1	2

Logistics incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Routefinding/ overdue	0	3	1	4
Party split	0	1	4	5
Automobile	0	1	3	4
Conflict with other party	0	0	0	0
Total	0	5	8	13

Near miss incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Equipment limit or lack	0	0	2	2
Party-caused rock fall	0	0	2	2
Avalanche near or on party	0	0	0	0
Fire nearby	0	0	0	0
Route conditions	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	4	4

Informational incidents 2013

	Major	Significant	Minor	Total
Equipment limit or lack	0	0	2	2
Major rockfall observed	0	0	0	0
Avalanches observed	0	0	0	0
Fire observed	0	0	0	0
Route conditions	0	0	3	3
Assist other party	0	0	3	3
Automobile	0	0	2	2
Training/skill limit or lack	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	2	2
Total	0	0	13	13

Major Incidents

January 19, 2013 – Stevens Lodge (Properties)

Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – heart

Injuries: Suspected heart attack (emergency medical attention)

April 7, 2013 - Green River Headworks (Whitewater kayak outing)

Incident Type: Boating – drowning – overturned boat

Injuries: Fatality (emergency medical attention)

April 20, 2013 – Leavenworth, Icicle Canyon, R&D (Intermediate rock climb field trip)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Fractured ankle, multiple contusions (emergency medical attention)

April 23, 2013 – Budd Inlet (Basic sea kayak field trip)

Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – shoulder – overturned boat

Injuries: Dislocated right shoulder (emergency medical attention)

Major Incidents

May 12, 2013 – Baker Lake Trail Crew (Venturing outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – nontechnical terrain – avoiding a falling tree

Injuries: Cut leg requiring stitches (emergency medical attention)

June 1, 2013 – Mt Hood, Palmer Glacier (Basic glacier climb outing)

Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – eye

Injuries: Temporary blindness, high altitude corneal edema (emergency medical attention)

June 7, 2013 – Liberty Bell/SW Face (Intermediate rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow – hit rock

Injuries: Fractured foot (emergency medical attention)

July 5, 2013 – Mt Stuart/N Ridge (Intermediate rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Fractured vertebra (emergency medical attention)

Major Incidents

July 19, 2013 - Guye Peak/S Rib (Basic rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Leg laceration requiring stitches (emergency medical attention)

August 3, 2013 - Sahale Peak/Quien Sabe Glacier (Basic glacier climb outing)

Incident Type: Hit/cut – tree branch

Injuries: Scratched cornea in the eye (emergency medical attention)

August 23, 2013 - Guye Peak/W Face (Basic rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Fractured leg (emergency medical attention)

Major Incidents

August 24, 2013 – South Face of North Early Winter Spire (Rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Hangman's neck fracture, fractured cheekbone, broken ankle, compound dislocation of the right thumb, broken fingers, stitches on the forehead, lacerated eyelid, abrasions (911, emergency medical attention)

September 8, 2013 - Guye Peak/Improbable Traverse (Intermediate rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Fractured back, sprained ankles (emergency medical attention, SAR)

September 14, 2013 - Curtis Glacier (Ice climbing field trip)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – ice

Injuries: Cut on leg requiring stitches (emergency medical attention)

Significant Incidents

February 2, 2013 - Paradise Area (Snowshoe outing)

Incident Type: Logistics – automobile accident

Injuries: Soreness and stiffness (medical attention)

February 9, 2013 – Heybrook Ridge (Navigation field trip)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow

Injuries: Knee sprain (medical attention)

February 17, 2013 - Copper Creek Hut (Nordic ski outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow while snowplowing

Injuries: Hurt foot (medical attention)

April 20, 2013 - Mount Rainier NP (Alpine scrambles field trip)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – snow during ice axe arrest

Injuries: Injured left shoulder (medical attention)

Significant Incidents

April 21, 2013 – Ozette Triangle (Hiking outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – nontechnical terrain

Injuries: Sprained wrist (medical attention)

April 27, 2013 – Paradise, Mt Rainier NP (Basic climbing field trip)

Incident Type: Hit/cut – snow – snow cave collapsed

Injuries: Strained and/or torn cartilage between ribs and sternum (medical attention)

May 4, 2013 – Vantage (Aid climb outing)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Sprained wrist and bruised ribs, wrist, and shoulder (medical attention)

June 4, 2013 - Denali (Mt McKinley)/West Buttress (Intermediate mountaineering outing)

Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – Lungs

Injuries: Bronchial Inflammation (medical attention)

Significant Incidents

June 5, 2013 - Ingalls Peak/East Ridge (Intermediate rock climb outing)

Incident Type: Logistics – overdue party

Injuries: None (Search and rescue called)

June 8, 2013 – Squamish, BC (Crag climb field trip)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – rock

Injuries: Hit head and cut finger (medical attention)

June 9, 2013 – Mount Adams, Adams Glacier (Intermediate ice climb outing)

Incident Type: Search and rescue called; Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – ankle injury; Logistics – party split

Injuries: Injured tendon in the right foot (medical attention, search and rescue called)

July 20, 2013 – Coldwater Loop/South Coldwater trail and Lakes trail (Hiking outing)

Incident Type: Logistics – party split

Injuries: None (search and rescue called but no search performed)

Significant Incidents

August 20, 2013 – Magnuson Park, The Brig (Social folk dancing event)

Incident Type: Fall/slip – nontechnical terrain

Injuries: Fractured knee cap (medical attention)

August 22, 2013 - Norse Peak (Midweek hikes outing)

Incident Type: Personal illness, preparation, conditioning – back

Injuries: Back Spasms

October 19, 2013 – Colchuck Peak/NE Couloir – winter (Intermediate ice climb outing)

Incident Type: Logistics – overdue party

Injuries: None (911 called)

Minor Incidents

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

Patterns emerging...

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

For more information

- www.mountaineers.org
 - 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

Charles Lozner photo
(The Enchantments)



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



The Mountaineers - Safety Highlights Archive

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

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[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