

## Club-Wide Safety Committee Recommendations – 2008

Based upon review of submitted club-wide incident reports for 2008, the Safety Committee has grouped mountaineers trip incidents into four main categories upon which safety recommendations are based. These concepts and recommendations should be communicated to all activity committees and leaders and should be disseminated or made available for review by the Mountaineers community. The main categories are as follows:

- PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
  - Recognize own ability
  - Dealing with unskilled graduates
- TRAVELING ALONE
  - Injured parties never travel alone
  - Buddy system
- SNOW TRAVEL
  - Stress use of crampons
  - Use all equipment to prevent a fall
- VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES
  - Insure safety program in place

### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Recognize own ability, expectations of graduates, keeping their skill level up, process for removing someone who does not show the ability to continue participation.

#### Recognize own ability

- Emphasize that participants sign up for trips that are within their ability.
- Don't overestimate their ability.
- Leader notes could be more explicit on expected ability.

#### Dealing with unskilled graduates

- What to do when a participant does not show skills required in a class or on an outing?
- Need feedback mechanism to other courses where person graduated
  - Rescind graduation, don't allow on trips?
  - What is process to remove person from an activity they have previously graduated?
- How do we insure information is passed back to previous committees on personnel issues?
- Don't allow social promotion.
- Development of a skills enhancement class where folks go for a refresher.
- Develop a plan of action for this person.
- Activity committees need to take up this topic

### TRAVELING ALONE

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Don't allow someone to travel by themselves, keep the buddy system.

### Injured parties never travel alone

- Don't let an injured or sick person hike back to trailhead by themselves.
- Injured party doesn't want to be burden to group so are willing to go by themselves.
- Leader should work to overcome this reluctance and should insist on someone accompanying the party out.
- Don't let embarrassment cloud judgment.
- Reemphasize no party separation, if folks spread out upon the trail, always sync up at trail junctions.
- Also consider not allowing person to leave trailhead by themselves if they arrive early.

### Buddy System

- Don't let one person go by themselves, even healthy party members.
- Set up a buddy system, each person responsible for another, buddy up
- Leaders need to set expectations of group members.
- Leader write down the license plates of cars at trailhead, would know that all parties accounted for.
  - Doesn't take the place of setting explicit expectations that nobody leaves the trailhead for home until everyone accounted for.

## SNOW TRAVEL

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Stress use of crampons, use all available equipment to prevent a fall

### Crampons

- Stress use of crampons
- Dull crampons are very useful.
  - Go ahead and file down the points when new
  - Many times points are too sharp coming out of the box.
- Consider use of crampons even for short sections where a fall could have grave consequences.

Use equipment to prevent a fall

- On any snow slope where a fall is serious, take all precautions
  - Take out and use the ice axe
  - Perform self belay
  - Put on crampons.
- Sliding on 30 degree hard snow slope can be the equivalent of free falling.
- Don't hesitate to set up a belay with a rope or handline if needed

## VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

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Anytime there is a volunteer work party, insure a safety program is in place and the program is followed

Insure Safety program in place

- For any branch that undertakes an industrial type refurbishment activity, and is working with volunteers, need an explicit safety program for that activity.
  - Obtain latest template from clubhouse
  - Includes equipment standards
- Insure a qualified person takes on safety leadership for the work party
  - Go over all safety rules
  - Insure safety rules are followed