

## Accidents in Outdoor Pursuits – Causes and Cures Jed Williamson – October 2011

Following our small group discussions as to how the matrix and “understanding risk” might be used for staff training and for working with participants, we gathered to discuss results from each group. Here are the key points that spokes-persons from each group came up with.

### Take-aways:

- therapeutic group
  - hold the matrix tool up to our own policies and procedures for comparison and thinking about how to move ahead.
  
- independent group
  - share the tool with both staff and participants, and get more “eyes on the ground” to look at how items within the matrix apply to each activity
  - let the concepts within the tool empower the participants by having them consider and use its concepts
  - the notion of the matrix as leading to more “buy-in” and ownership of risk management
  - use tool in support of legal coverage
  
- college / university group
  - use the tool to align policies and practices
  - doing some risk management sharing with administration that may be unfamiliar with our world
  - use the tool in staff training so that leaders can then use its language with students and participants in preparation for setting out for various activities

- high school group 1
  - necessary to remember that age and stage of development may mean limited judgment skills
  - use the tool with staff in order to have them use with participants
  - use with staff for analysis and documentation following any incident
  - use the tool with participants to tune their awareness to the human factors of risk
  - use in concert with case studies
  - simplify with high school age audience; i.e., don't overdo content

- high school group 2
  - we get nervous when we see other parties in the back country with this age group acting as “passive passengers” (i.e., have not been oriented to or have no “buy in” for taking any responsibility for risk management
  - can use this tool to help in engaging the participation of the student on a professional basis, because “pro” ideas appeal to this age group; i.e., they can become young “pros”

- adult and youth programs
  - use of the tool both pre-and post-trip to set up awareness
  - agree on a ‘during-trip ritual’ such as SCA’s “take-5” (take five minute time out to discuss coming risk issues), and after trip to evaluate ‘near-misses’