

## **The WRMC/AEE Risk Management Incident Reporting Project Has Concluded**

March 10, 2009

Established in 1992 and Co-sponsored by the Wilderness Risk Manager's Committee and the Association for Experiential Education this project, which developed a database of risk management incidents such as injuries, illnesses and close calls has resulted in significant advancements in our understanding of the types and severity of incidents that occur during adventure education programs. Analyses of the data were published as the "Adventure Program Risk Management Report" in 1995, 1998 and 2003. Volume III of this book (2003) is available through the Association for Experiential Education online bookstore [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org). Additionally data analysis was presented at the Wilderness Risk Management Conference in the form of a poster display in 2006 and 2008. The 2008 poster is available at <http://www.nols.edu/wrmc/resources.shtml>. This information remains a useful tool for program managers and for staff training.

The project has concluded because the system used to collect and store the data needs to be modernized and the technical expertise and resources for this are simply not available with the current project sponsors, namely NOLS and AEE. Another factor in this move is that the Wilderness Risk Manager's Committee has been disbanded and replaced with a Wilderness Risk Management Conference Steering Committee, which is focused solely on organizing the annual WRM Conference. Programs accredited with AEE will no longer be required to submit incident data to this project. The AEE Accreditation Standards are currently being revised for the upcoming fifth edition, due out in November. It has not been determined yet if the standard will be eliminated or just revised to reflect that submitting data to this project is no longer required.

The conclusion of this project does not diminish the importance and value of collecting and analyzing incident data. AEE staff is considering if and how they might be able to start a similar project and OutdoorEd.com is poised to roll out their long awaited International Incident Database Project (IIDP) [www.incidentdatabase.org](http://www.incidentdatabase.org), which will offer an online web-based incident data reporting mechanism.

The sponsors of the WRMC/AEE Incident Reporting Project would like to thank everyone who has submitted data and contributed to helping us achieve the goals of the project. Over the life of the project 65 different organizations submitted incident data amounting to 1,195 incident records.

Programs that have contributed to this project are strongly encouraged to continue to collect and study their own incident data. The system and forms used in the WRMC/AEE project are available for anyone who would like to continue or set up their own data collection system.

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