

Tell Your Risk Management Story: How to Better Share Incidents From the Field

WELCOME!

TELL YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT STORY

What we will ask of you:

- Story Mining
- Experimenting with Storytelling Structure
- Story Sharing

Have pen and paper or notes app on hand



INTRODUCTIONS

Pair and Share

Find a partner!

- Ideally someone who hasn't heard all of your stories already
- This will be your partner who you workshop your story with throughout the session

Do some quick introductions!

- Name
- Where you are coming from
- Where are you managing risk? Both professionally and recreationally

INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Leslie

NOLS FIELD INSTRUCTOR

- 2016 Instructor Course Grad
- Hiking, Climbing, Mountaineering

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NOLS CUSTOM EDUCATION

- Business Development and Program Management

CLIMBER, COACH, NEW DAD



INTRODUCTIONS

Zach Taylor

NOLS FIELD INSTRUCTOR

- 2019 Instructor Course Grad
- 2019 NOLS/Saybrook MA Grad
- Hiking, Canyoneering, Mountaineering, WFAs

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION, OREGON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

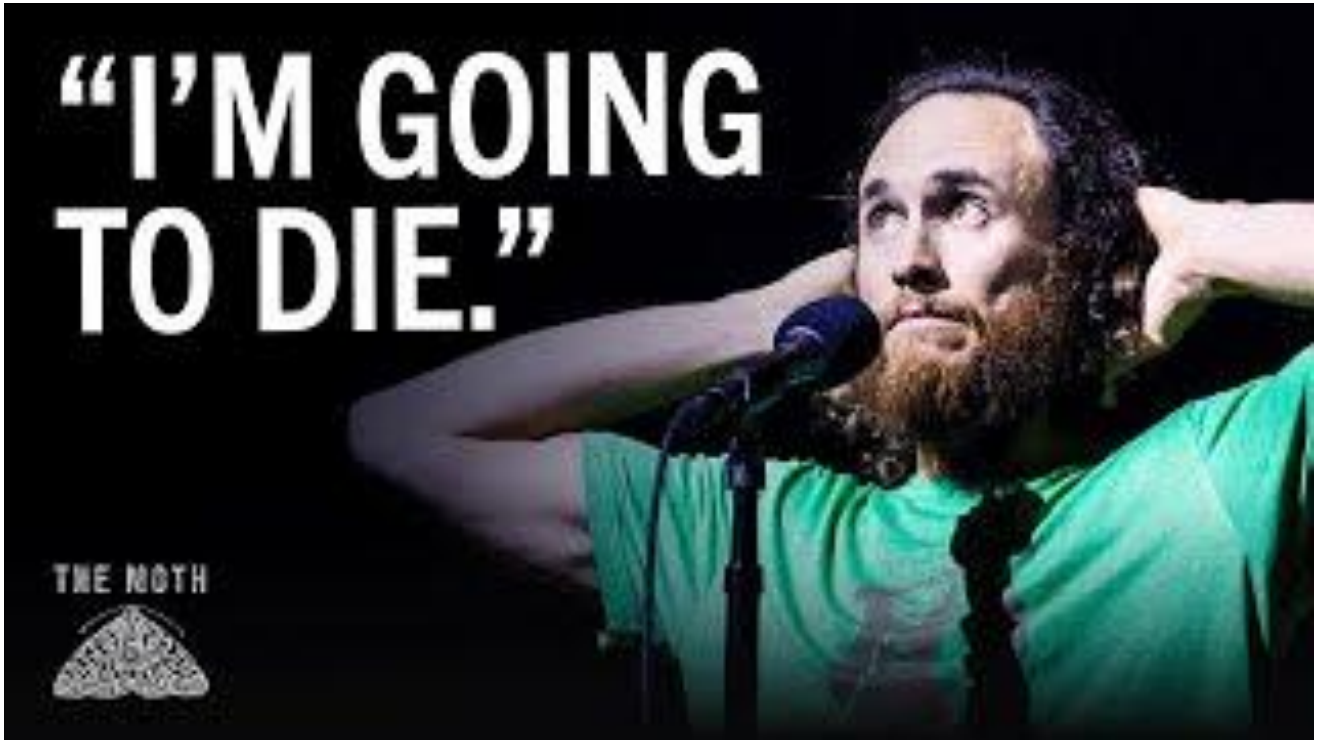
- K-12 Outdoor and Experiential Programming

NEW DAD



MONTE MONTEPARE- THE MOTH

“DON’T WASTE A GOOD MISTAKE”



RISK MANAGEMENT & STORYTELLING

WHY THIS SESSION? WHY STORYTELLING?

"Stories are memory aids, instruction manuals and moral compasses."
- Dr. Aleks Krotoski



STORY MINING

Selecting Your Story

Incident or near miss in the field

- Tell us about a risk management incident or near miss you were involved in. What happened? What were the lessons?

Make it your own*

- Think about the the last time you learned a hard lesson in the field. How did it happen? What did you learn?
- Think about a time you made a risk management decision that others disagreed with. What happened? What was the outcome?

*IF your story is ready to share

GUIDED PRACTICE

STORY MINING

FIRST: Take 3 minutes to write down as many titles of stories as you can.

- Think, “The One Where X Did X”
- Just the title. Don’t flesh them out yet; we’re going for total number

THEN: Take 2 minutes to select your top 3 stories using the following principles:

- The story has a universal theme (It’s a story, NOT an anecdote)
- There’s a lesson to takeaway (“Don’t waste a good mistake”)

STORYTELLING FRAMEWORKS

STRUCTURE AND SETTING

Set Up, Punchline, Tag

- **Set Up:** establishes the situation or premise, while planting a clear ambiguity or misdirection- “tension”
- **Punchline:** the story's climax or joke, shattering the audience's expectations by revealing an unexpected meaning or twist- “release”
- **Tag:** an extra punchline or comment that prolongs the story (and laughter), without needing to restart the story - “elaborate”

Potential Settings: Stand-up comedy, campfire tales





STORYTELLING FRAMEWORKS

STRUCTURE AND SETTING

What? So What? Now What?

- **What:** what happened
- **So What:** why is what happened significant
- **Now What:** what are we taking away from the story

Potential Settings: Debriefs, Lesson Planning

STARR Framework from Motivational Interviewing:

- **Setting:** set the scene
- **Task:** what were you aiming to achieve
- **Action:** describe the actions you personally took
- **Result:** explain the outcomes
- **Reflection:** what did you learn

Potential Settings: Job Interview



GUIDED PRACTICE

WRITING AND SHARING YOUR FIRST DRAFT

FIRST: Select ONE story from your previous top 3.

- Take 3 minutes to write out the general story structure. This will be the story you will workshop the remainder of the section.

Consider using one of the shared frameworks:

- Set Up, Punchline, Tag
- What, So What, Now What
- STARR
- Choose your own adventure!

THEN: In pairs, take turns telling each other ONE of your stories.

- This is our onsight attempt! You will get opportunities to refine the story throughout this session.

MAY 2025

CHUGACH MOUNTAINS, ALASKA

NOLS Alaska Mountaineering Instructor Course

- Day 21 of 24



TRUE, TRUER, TRUEST

THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES

TRUE- the objective facts of the situation

- There was recent avalanche activity up valley. From where we were standing we can't accurately judge if we would be travelling through avalanche terrain.

TRUER - our subjective feelings of the situation

- We are tired and wished we had not left our snowshoes with the pilot.

TRUEST- the true lesson we want to walk away with

- Turning around is a reasonable option, but we need to be honest why we are choosing to do so.

GUIDED PRACTICE

TRUE, TRUER, TRUEST

In the same pairs as before, apply "True, Truer, Truest" to your own and your partner's story.

- What are the objectives facts of the story?
- What are the subjective feelings and emotions the storyteller brought to the situation?
- What is the true lesson you are, or are wanting others, to take away?

Then share and reflect:

- Does this process change the story you are telling? If so, how?



GUIDED PRACTICE

TELL YOUR STORY!

State the venue and audience

- Campfire/happy hour
- Lesson plan/debrief
- Job interview

Share your story- Find a new partner!

- Try to keep it 3-5 minutes

Get feedback from your audience

- Was it easy to follow?
- Could you relate?
- Were you engaged throughout?
- Did the lesson land? Was it heavy handed?





CLOSING

ACTION STEPS

Story Mining

- Actively identify stories worth telling from your work in the field, and keep an ongoing list.

Experiment with Story Structure

- Experiment with how you structure your stories, while seeking to uphold your story's "truth."

Story Sharing

- Seek out stories from others.
- Tell your story at tonight's social!

WRMC
WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

CLOSING

CONTACT US! SHARE A STORY!

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References

- ***Monte Montepare | The Moth*** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cmcy6xFGzY0
- ***Long Story Short*** by Margo Leitman
- **How to Tell a Story: The Essential Guide to Memorable Story Telling from the Moth** by Meg Bowles

