UHI | NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES A TUATH, AN IAR IS INNSE GALL
School of Adventure Studies

Institute for Outdoor Learning

AAIAC Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee

Collective Knowledge

'Evidencing the practice that keeps people safe'

Phase 1 Report Summary

The intention of this project is to use our collective knowledge and experience to keep people safe in the outdoors.

The project aims to do this through providing structure and opportunities for mediating knowledge creation in activity safety within the UK outdoor adventurous activities sector.

The focus of the project will be on;

- *Collection* – awareness of current trends and themes across the sector
- *Curating* – information and knowledge stored in a useful and accessible format
- *Communication* – develop ways of sharing knowledge and information widely and effectively

The intention of this project is to connect relevant information to individuals and providers in the sector to (1) reduce incidents, (2) encourage high quality provision, and (3) support individuals/providers development through encouraging a greater understanding of safety and risk management.

Phase 1

The aim was to test the process of a sector wide incident-reporting system. Its objectives were to (1) identify the key information required, (2) assess its useability for providers, (3) ensure the data collected retained anonymity, and (4) analyse the data to identify any gaps in the final data results.

The project achieved this by recruiting a small group of organisational participants who contributed historical incident reports from a three month period. This data alongside their total number of participant activity days and feedback/project evaluation was analysed to meet the four research objectives.

The full report can be accessed HERE.

Version 1.1 – June 2024

Recommendations

There were 11 recommendations in the report with;

- seven recommendations regarding the processes of an incident report (eg. use of categorised data vs descriptive data).
- three recommendations regarding the overall direction of the project (eg. communicating with stakeholders, investigate legal ramifications of submitting data).
- The final recommendation was to continue developing the project, *with the aim of preventing future incidents, supporting the diverse sector, and encouraging the development of frontline practitioners*.

Next Steps

We have produced an exemplar of what an annual report of a sector wide incident reporting system could look like. Please see pages below, but please note that the data gathered is not representative of the sector due to the limited number of participants in this initial phase and should only be seen as an example of how the future data could be presented.

We are wanting to consult and gather feedback from a wider range of sector stakeholders through to around September 2024. Alongside this we are seeking additional funding to move the project forwards.

We will then be looking to recruit a large and diverse group of organisations that are keen to participate in the next phase, which will include a long-term trial of an incident-reporting system and its collection, curation and communication of knowledge that comes out of that. Alongside this we will be looking at new and alternative ways of communicating safety knowledge and information across the sector that both raises its profile, and promotes discussion and conversation amongst the workforce.

If you would like to know more about this project please visit https://outdoor-learning.org/news-events/current-projects/keeping-people-safe-in-the-outdoors.html

Or contact us directly at collectiveknowledge@outdoor-learning.org

CK REPORT OVERVIEW

For further detail about the project please visit https://outdoor-learning.org/news-events/current-projects/keeping-people-safe-in-the-outdoors.html

EXAMPLE

The following is based on data gathered from the Phase 1 research of the Collective Knowledge Project. It is to be used purely as an example of what could be presented, as the research was limited in scope and was primarily about refining the process of an incident-reporting system.

109 Total Reports

- 73 Incidents
- 12 Near Misses
- 24 Safety Observations

Participant Activity Days

24,635 PAD

Recorded over a 3 month period.

Severity Rating

90% reports recorded a LOW significance

Rates

1 Incident for every 333 PAD

1 Near Miss for every 2000 PAD

1 in 2237

Medium Significance events

An event includes both incidents and near misses.

Injuries

70% of incidents resulted in physical injuries

77%

Injuries to limbs

43% were to arms/hands and 34% to legs/feet

53%

Injuries that were bruises or cuts

Activities

34%

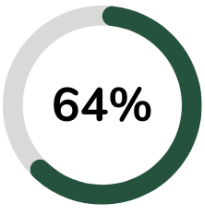
Free Time Related Reports

Compared to the next highest of 9% for Climbing. The most common location for reports was 'Centre', accounting for 43%.

Contributory Factors

- Responsible People
- Other People
- Equipment
- Organisational
- Environment

These 5 system categories for contributory factors contained a total of 28 descriptor categories.



Of contributory factors are associated with PEOPLE

Top 5 Contributory Factors

1. **Awareness** of the Responsible People
2. **Awareness** of the Other People
3. **Supervision** within the Organisation
4. **Risk management, policies & procedures** within the Organisation
5. **Knowledge** of the Responsible People

70%

Reports with NO contributory factors

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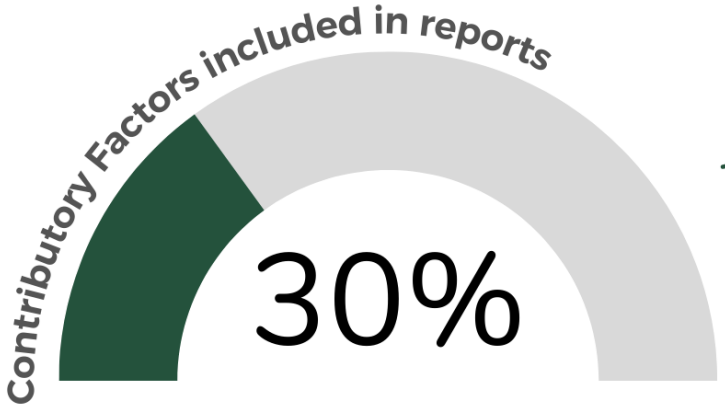

70% of reports did not record any factors that contributed to the circumstances.

QUESTION - Have you considered keeping a track of contributory factors within your organisational incident reports?

1 in 2000

Near Misses

An event or sequence of events that could have led to harm towards individuals.

versus

1 in 333

Incidents

An event (planned or unplanned) that has occurred which has caused harm (physical, emotional, psychological etc.) to individuals.

QUESTION - How aware are we as individuals and organisations of near misses? How can we become aware of events before they occur?

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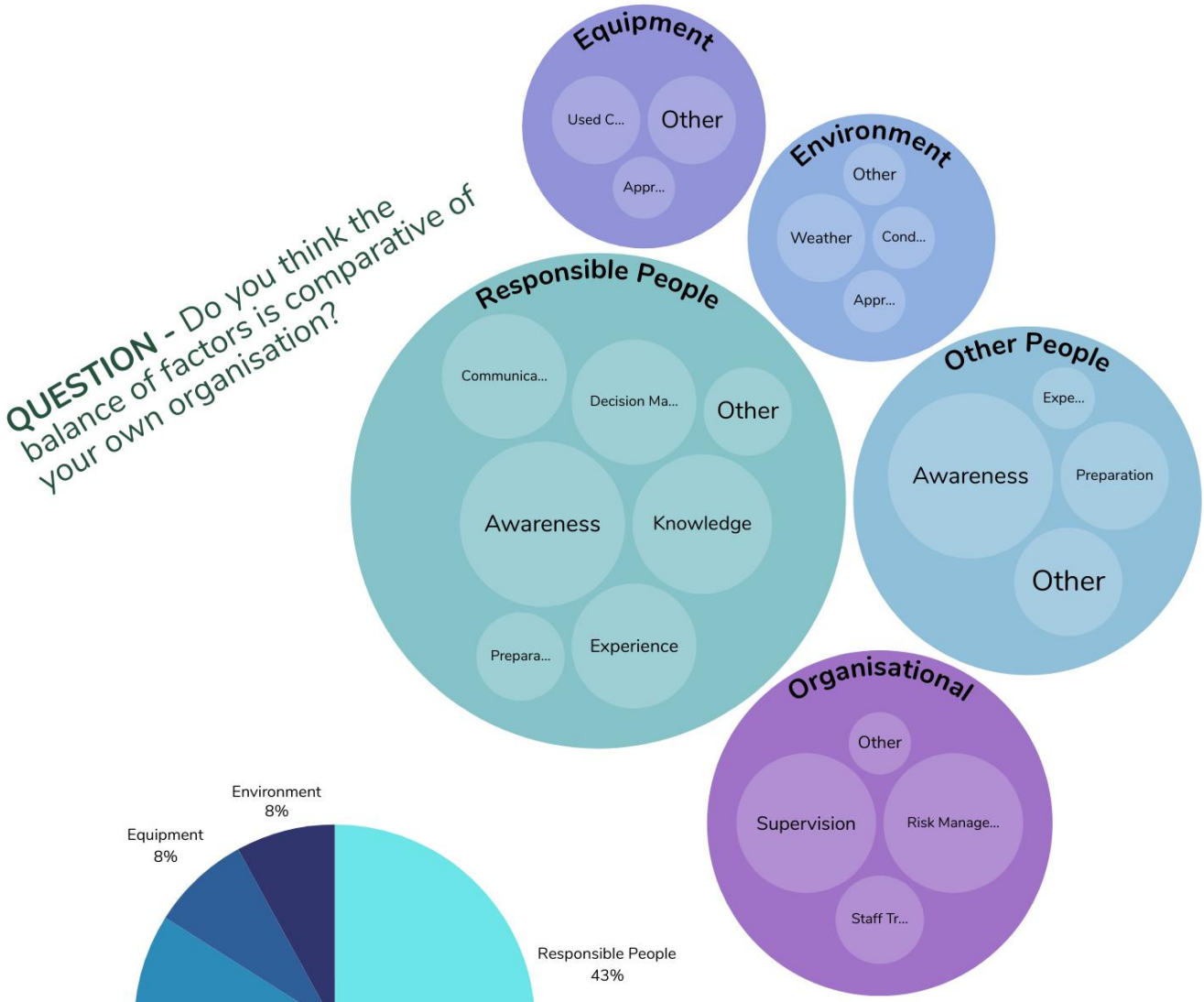
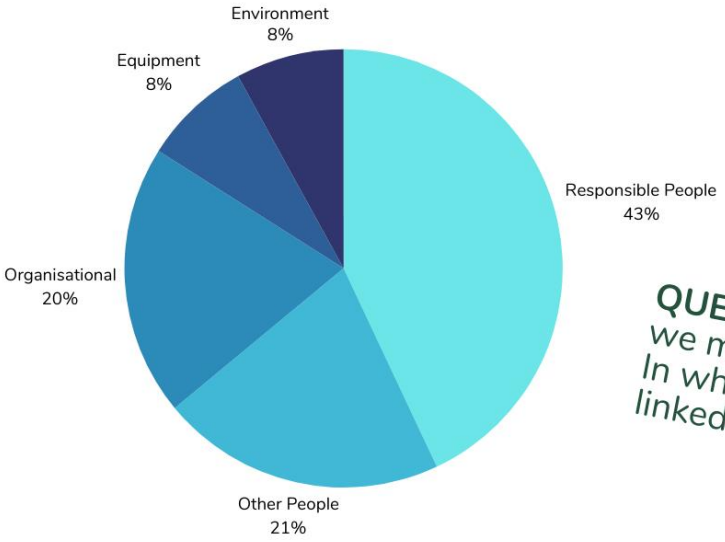


QUESTION - Do you think the balance of factors is comparative of your own organisation?



QUESTION - Where do you think we may be blind to certain factors? In what ways do you think they are linked?