



VIRISTAR

Outdoor Program Risk Management

Summary of Key Points

- I. Risks in outdoor programs are unavoidable, but they can be managed by taking steps to reduce, transfer, eliminate and accept risks.
- II. Risk reduction aims to reduce risks to a socially acceptable level. What is socially acceptable depends on applicable laws, safety standards, and cultural norms. It is the responsibility of the outdoor program to understand what an acceptable level of risk is for their situation and to not exceed that level.
- III. Domains where outdoor risks are found include (Organizational) Culture, Activities and Program Areas, Staff, Equipment, Participants, Subcontractors, Transportation and Business Administration. Specific policies, procedures and practices should be in place to manage these risks.
- IV. Instruments (tools) that can help manage risks across all risk domains include Risk Transfer, Incident Management, Incident Reporting, Incident Reviews, Risk Management Committee, Medical Screening, Risk Management Reviews, Media Relations, Documentation, Accreditation and Seeing Systems. These instruments should be used as appropriate.
- V. Risks exist and interact with each other in a complex system. Risks therefore cannot be addressed in isolation. A systems approach to managing risk should be employed.

Outdoor Program Risk Management Websites (in English language)

Disclaimer: This list is not a recommendation or endorsement. Content may not be current, accurate, or reliable. Use at your own risk.

Global

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| New Zealand outdoor adventure safety | supportadventure.co.nz |
| Australian Adventure Activity Standard | australianaas.org.au |
| UK Adventure Activities Licensing Authority | hse.gov.uk/aala |
| International Organization for Standardization | iso.org |
| Association for Experiential Education | aee.org |
| Wilderness Risk Management Conference | nols.edu/wrmc |
| Wilderness Medical Society | wms.org |
| Outdoor education | outdoored.com |
| World Health Organization | who.int |
| Wilderness Medicine Educators Collaborative | wfr-sop.org |
| Education Outside the Classroom, NZ Ministry of Ed. | eotc.tki.org.nz |

Activity-specific

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| <u>Challenge course</u> : Association for Challenge Course Technology | acctinfo.org |
| <u>Climbing, Mountaineering</u> : International Climbing & Mountaineering Federation | theuiaa.org |
| International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations | ifmga.info |
| <u>Canoeing, Kayaking</u> : International Canoe Federation | canoeicf.com |
| <u>Tree Climbing</u> : Global Organization of Tree Climbers | gotreeclimbing.org |
| <u>Sailing</u> : World Sailing | sailing.org |

National activity-specific websites: check local resources

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