



Why is data quality important?



Data reported via the UPLOADS App helps your organisation objectively understand incident frequency and causation, identify trends, and implement action plans to improve safety. High quality data is critical to support appropriate safety management activities. Here are a some tips to improve data quality.

Tip 1: Report participation data



Participation data tells us about the number of people involved in activities on your programs. This information is used to calculate the overall incident rate for your organisation and the incident rate for individual activities. **If you do not record and enter participation data, it is not possible for UPLOADS to provide an accurate calculation of incident rates.**

Tip 2: Report all incidents



Reporting adverse outcomes and near misses of all severity help us identify the frequency and types of incidents that occur.

Adverse outcomes are defined as people being injured or becoming ill, psychosocial episodes, missing people, equipment or environmental damage. **Near misses** are defined as incidents that have the potential to cause an adverse outcome, but fail to do so.

Tip 3: Report contributory factors and interactions



Research tells us that the factors contributing to minor injuries and near misses are similar to the factors that contribute to major incidents and fatalities.

It is therefore critical to report the contributory factors, and relationships between contributory factors, for all incidents, no matter how minor or severe they are. This will allow your organisation to design targeted incident prevention strategies that will help make outdoor activities safer for you, and the wider community.

4 Description

During a combined bushwalking and mountain biking activity, one participant experienced muscle soreness in the lower back. The activity required the participant to carry a heavy hiking pack for approximately 3 hours. The participant said that they had not been bushwalking or mountain bike riding before and were unused to strenuous activities. Staff members encouraged rests and administered Panadol. The program was designed without consideration of varying participant fitness levels and capabilities.

5 Contributory factors

RESOURCES:

A1 EQUIPMENT / CLOTHING - Hiking pack was too heavy for the participant.

PARTICIPANT:

D5 EXPERIENCE - Participant did not have prior bush walking or mountain bike riding experience.

D7 MENTAL/PHYSICAL - Participant was not used to strenuous activities.

ACTIVITY / PROGRAM DESIGN:

H3 SUITABILITY - Activity was not suitable for the participant's capabilities.

6 Interaction between factors

A1 ➔ **D7** The pack was too heavy for the participant and the participant was unable to carry the pack for the required time and distance.

H3 ➔ **D5** The program design was not suitable for the participant's experience.

H3 ➔ **D7** The activity was not suitable for the participants physical capabilities.

Example
Incident report