REVISITING NEAR MISS INCIDENTS IN LED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Near miss incidents reported via UPLOADS from April 2024 until July 2026

34%
of reported incidents had the
POTENTIAL
to result in a
SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENT
with medium to long term effects requiring timely external medical care or evacuation

308 near miss incidents reported

Most near miss incidents reported were associated with the following four activity types:
Walking/running: 30%
Harness - Outdoors: 13%
Camping (Tents): 10%
Fresh water activities: 10%

Snake-related near misses during walking and running activities

~50%
of walking/running near misses

Snake encounters were common
Snake sightings were involved in **~50%** of walking/running near misses

Who spotted the hazard?
It wasn't always the leader. Participants and accompanying staff played an important role in identifying snakes

Safety is a shared responsibility
Clear briefings and effective communication helped groups respond appropriately

Harness and climbing-related near misses

~30%
of harness-related near misses

Getting caught was common
Hair, clothing, helmets, gloves and harness straps became caught in ropes, devices, or structures.

Who was controlling the rope?
Unexpected drop frequently involved peer or teacher belayers, highlighting the importance of appropriate training and supervision

Was everyone ready to climb?
Some participants started climbing before leaders or equipment systems were ready, highlighting the importance of clear communication and pre-activity checks

Scan for more **UPLOADS** information

Ideas for future infographics? Let us know by emailing uploadsproject@usc.edu.au

UPLOADS
Understanding and Preventing Led Outdoor Accidents Data System
Australian National Incident Dataset
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Data are reported from the National Incident Dataset with UPLOADS reporting restrictions applied