

Incident Severity Scale

SEVERITY RANKING	IMPACT ON PARTICIPATION	INJURY	ILLNESS	SOCIAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE	SEVERITY RANKING	EQUIPMENT DAMAGE	ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE
1	MINOR/SHORT TERM IMPACT on individual/s	Splinters, insect bites, stings	Minor irritant	Temporary stress or embarrassment	1	Minor cost	Littering
2	that doesn't have large effect on	Sunburn, scrapes, bruises, minor cuts	Minor cold, infection, mild allergy	Temporary stress or embarrassment with peers	2	>\$50	Minor damage to environment that will quickly recover
Severity scale 3 & above to be recorded on National Incident Database							
3	participation in activity /programme.	Blisters, minor sprain, minor dislocation Cold/heat stress	Minor asthma, cold, upset stomach, etc	Stressed. Beyond comfort level. Shown up in front of group.	3	>\$100	Scorched campsite, plant damage
4	MEDIUM IMPACT on individual/s that may prevent participation in the activity / programme for a day or two.	Lacerations, frostnip, minor burns, mild concussion mild hypo/ hyperthermia	Mild flu, migraine	Stressed, wants to leave activity, a lot of work to bring back in.	4	>\$500	Burnt shrubs, cut live branches, washed group dishes in stream, etc
5		Sprains & hyper-extensions, minor fracture	Flu, food/hygiene related diarrhoea/ vomiting	Distressed, freezes on activity, requires 'emotional rescue', does not want to participate again.	5	>\$2,000	Walked through sensitive ecological area destroying some plant life, toileting close to water course
Any workplace incidents at grade 6 and above need to be reported to Dept of Labour.							
6	MAJOR IMPACT on individual/s that means they cannot continue with large parts of the activity/ trip/ programme.	Hospital stay < 12 hours fractures, dislocations, frostbite, major burn, concussion, surgery, breathing difficulties moderate hypo/ hyperthermia	Medical treatment required, hospital stay < 12 hours eg,, serious asthma attack, serious infection, anaphylactic reaction	Very distressed, leaves activity and requires on site counselling, unwilling to participate in activity ever again.	6	>\$8,000	Destroyed/ killed some example of flora/fauna
7		Hospital stay > 12 hours eg, arterial bleeding, severe hypo/ hyperthermia, loss of consciousness	Hospital stay > 12 hours eg, infection or illness causing loss of consciousness, serious medical emergency	Therapy/ counselling required by professional	7	>\$20,000	Killed, destroyed or polluted small area of environment
8	LIFE CHANGING effect on individual/s or death.	Major injury requiring hospitalisation e.g., Spinal damage, head injury	Major illness requiring hospitalisation e.g., heart attack	Long term counselling/ therapy required after incident	8	>\$50,000	Killed example of protected species
9		Single death	Single death	Post-traumatic stress disorder, changed profession because of incident,	9	>\$250,000	Fire or pollution etc resulting in area of wilderness being destroyed
10		Multiple fatality	Multiple fatality	Suicide because of incident	10	>\$1,000,000	Major fire or pollution causing serious loss of environment or life

Davidson, 2005. Incident Severity Scale. Adapted and expanded from the Accident Frequency Severity Chart (Priest, 1996).