

Mountain Skills

Mountain Hazards

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Mountain Hazards

- They don't exist all the time!
- The hazard only exists if you are there to interact with it
- How we plan and make decisions can create hazards
- We plan so as to avoid hazards



Planning



- Planning an appropriate day for our group will remove or reduce the number of hazards
- If we fail to plan we may create hazards



- By recognising something as a hazard we immediately make it less hazardous
- Being prepared is vital. Being prepared can reduce hazards or allow us to manage hazards successfully

Weather

- To Hot? To Cold? To Windy? To Unpredictable
- Check the weather forecast
- Mountains create their own weather
- Have the right gear. Be prepared to take shelter
- Be able to navigate at night or in very poor conditions
- Have an alternative route planned
- Have an escape plan
- Match the route and conditions to your group's experience



Hazard or Photo Opportunity?

- Water. Deep. Fast Flowing. Avoid.
- Will we cross? Can you see the bottom?
- Is this amount of water expected?
- Is there a safer alternative?
- Will the water rise during the day?
- Is it really necessary? Use the bridge?
- Just turn back, come back another day



Steep Ground! Is it?

- What is steep ground?
- An experienced rock climber might consider the ground in the photo easy.
- Grade the ground according to your experience and the experience of your group and conditions
- If you have to put your hands on the ground you are scrambling
- Dont climb up anything that you can't walk off of
- Is the ground stable? Scree? Boulder? Will it slip or roll?
- Wet conditions make steep ground much more hazardous



Human Hazard



- Appropriate Gear
- The leader must be confident and be in charge
- The group should know what the plan is



- Lack of fitness, a medical issue or lack of appropriate gear puts the entire group at risk
- Managing expectations, departure, arrival times and egos is part of the leaders job

Animals, Livestock, Ticks, Plants

- Wild animals create very little hazard on the Irish hills. Deer jumping in front of your car on the way home is possibly the biggest risk!!
- However approaching deer or other wild animals may create a risk. Stay away.
- Crossing land with livestock may also create some risk. Avoid.
- Ticks: The recent article opposite is from The Guardian Newspaper.
-new risks emerge all the time, educate your self

“Our findings follow the recent report of the detection of tick-borne encephalitis virus in the UK. Taken together, these findings signify a change in the landscape of tick-borne pathogens in the UK and the underlying causes for this need to be investigated.”

Willie Weir, senior university clinician, said: “The presence of *B venatorum* in the UK represents a new risk to humans working, living, or hiking in areas with infected ticks and livestock, particularly sheep.

Thanks!
The End.....

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