

Risk, safety and rescue in a changing outdoor arena

Session type: Oral presentation

Organizers: Rebecca Stenberg, Linköping university/CARER (Center for Advanced Research in Emergency Response). Department of Management and Engineering, Linköping University, Email: rebecca.stenberg@liu.se

Climate changes are giving way to new landscapes, seascapes and “icescapes”, and we have to plan for and cope with new kinds of weather anomalies. In addition to that, we also experience demographic changes such as an aging population in the Western World, a diminishing familiarity with outdoor life, and values that are changing from the creation of shared activities into events to consume. In turn, this leads to changes in the outdoor risk panorama and points to an increasing need for knowledge about risk, safety and rescue issues in outdoor recreation.

Risk research as well as research in safety and rescue, are established research fields which are applied in some areas of outdoor recreation but not in others. Much attention has for example been given to risk assessment, risk analysis in adventure sports and tourism and risk construction and risk management internationally. There is also a body of technical research and development of safety devices such as smart phone applications, transponders and GPS-functions, and of medical knowledge on topics such as human endurance and performance, illness and layman first aid in cardiac conditions. Other outdoor safety fields in need of knowledge development concerns both experiences, methods, suggestions and future questions in for example the following fields:

- Safety aspects of the Nordic “friluftsliv” with its prerequisites of open country access and the condition of outdoor activities “at your own risk”.
- How outdoor risk and safety are constructed and expressed in social media and how technology influences patterns of risk and safety in outdoor activities.
- Outdoor rescue activities and development, such as self aid, first responder aid and cooperation with the rescue system.
- Changes in risk panorama and rescue conditions.

We therefore welcome presentations in these fields or related topics from academic as well as practitioners’ perspectives.