



The Safety Beacon is for informational purposes. Unit safety officers are encouraged to use the articles in the Beacon as topics for their monthly safety briefings and discussions. Members may also go to LMS, read the current Beacon, and take a quiz to receive credit for monthly safety education.

July 2017

Record Heat!

You've seen the reports on the evening news and if you are involved in any of CAP's many summer activities you don't need me to tell you it has been hot out there. Many parts of the country have been experiencing record heat waves, and we need to make sure we are doing everything we can to minimize the effects of that heat. That excessive heat, and what we can do about it at our summer activities, NCSAs, and Encampments, is one of the focuses of this edition of the Beacon. We'll take a look at how a good understanding of real-time risk management will help us make the right decisions.

What Else Is In The Beacon?

- **WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE HEAT?** There's more to the heat than just staying hydrated. We'll take a quick look at the real risks associated with high temperatures ... heat can be a killer.
- **PARKING AIRPLANES:** You've all heard that the flight isn't over until the airplane is parked, and secured. Unfortunately the process of parking the airplane can result in mishaps. We'll take a look.
- **MISHAP CLOSEOUTS:** We've got a summary of some mishaps that were closed out last month, this time with some examples of how these mishaps illustrate some basic risk management terminology.
- **WHAT KIND OF MISHAPS SHOULD YOU WRITE UP AT ENCAMPMENTS?** Not every little ache or pain needs a mishap write-up in SIRS. Or does it? Read the guidelines!
- **READ, SHARE, DISCUSS:** As always the Beacon is meant to be shared and discussed, and there are some great safety education topics in this edition. Make sure you are discussing and asking questions.

“What Mishaps Do I Report?”

“You mean I have to report EVERYTHING?!”

George Vogt, CAP/SE

It's Encampment Season and that always brings up questions of what needs to be reported in SIRS. The questions come in regularly ...

- Do I need to report every little scratch?
- Every bug bite?
- Every little sprained ankle?

Well, every mishap *does* need to be reported, so I guess the first thing we ought to do is look at the definition of mishap in CAPR 62-2: *“Mishap” is defined as any unplanned or undesired, operational occurrence, or series of occurrences, that results in, or has the potential to result in, death, injury, or damage to equipment or property.*”

In other words, anything that happens that results in an injury **or has the potential to result in** an injury needs to be reported. Another important part of this definition has to do with anything that is *unplanned or undesired*. In other words, was there a situation where the plan broke down or someone fell or something happened that wasn't part of the plan and could have caused an injury. Report it.

Do I report headaches? Tummy aches? That depends. The occasional headache or tummy ache is quite common, and doesn't necessarily mean a plan went wrong. However, headaches and nausea can also be symptoms of heat stress or dehydration or too much stress. Nausea also might be a result of eating too big of a breakfast before running...we can learn from that if we report it. Again, look for what might have caused it and if it wasn't just a normal occurrence, report it.

One trend I've seen, in the interest of “efficiency,” is to have members in the health services office or medical tent simply transfer all the medical write-ups into SIRS. **Don't do that!** Those are for two distinctly different purposes. The medical logs do a great job of recording what treatment was given, but they don't report anything about what caused the minor mishap. Use the [Mishap Reporting Checklist](#) on the NCSA/Encampment Safety page. When it comes to mishap reporting, we need to know what caused it so we can learn how to prevent it! We're not just counting mishaps. We don't report them “for the record.” We try to learn from each one.

In addition to what you see above, another source of information on some common types of minor bodily injury mishaps is found [Attachment 3 of CAPR 62-2](#). It would be a good idea for every safety officer to take a look occasionally.

If I had to give a quick **checklist on what needs to be reported**:

- ANY injury, period.
- Any unplanned fall, or collision, or tumble that might have resulted in an injury
- Any illness, sickness or malady that might have been caused by the activity or event or stress or the environment

For each thing you report **here is what we need to know**:

- What happened that resulted in the injury
- How could it have been prevented ... include things like better supervision, better briefing, etc.

Questions?

safety@capnhq.gov