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**Types of Risk**

**Objective Risks**: Cannot usually be controlled. *Eg., weather, land features, wildlife*

Unsafe conditionsare objective (or environmental) factors that contribute to accidents (e.g. falling rock). These factors, which only describe fact, are often considered the cause of the accident, which may or may not be the case. ***The environments in which outdoor activities take place are only hazards; how a person chooses to interact with the environment is what creates potentially harmful situations.*** There is no such thing as bad weather … weather simply is. Not wearing appropriate mitts while ice climbing in -20˚C is what causes the frostbite; the weather is just an innocent bystander.

**Subjective Risks**: Can usually be controlled. *Eg., participants & behaviour, equipment, route choice*

Unsafe actsare a category of subjective hazards that represent the human interactions that are made with the environment.

Errors in judgmentare decisions that lead to a poor choice of action taken within the environment. Errors occur for many reasons. Lack of related experience or no experience at all is often a cause for poor judgment.

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| **Potential Causes of Accidents in Outdoor Pursuits** | | |
| **Potentially unsafe conditions due to:** | **Potentially unsafe acts due to:** | **Potentially errors in judgement due to:** |
| falling objects (rocks etc.) | inadequate protection | desire to please others |
| inadequate area security (physical, political, cultural) | inadequate instruction | trying to adhere to a schedule |
| weather | inadequate supervision | misperception |
| equipment (clothing, safety gear etc.) | unsafe speed (fast or slow) | new or unexpected situation (includes fear and panic) |
| swift and/or cold water | inadequate/proper food/drink/medications | fatigue |
| animals or plants | poor position | distraction |
| physical/psychological profile of participants/staff | unauthorized/improper procedure | miscommunication |
|  |  | disregarding instincts |

