

WHITE DRAGONS: THE KILLER AVALANCHES

Introduction

Focus

This *News in Review* story examines the deadly winter of 2008-09 in Western Canada. The presence of an increasing number of thrill-seekers in the backcountry means that people need to be more conscious than ever of the power of killer avalanches that locals call “white dragons.”

A heartbroken Jeff Adams returned to Harvey Pass, B.C., less than 48 hours after three separate avalanches buried him and 10 of his fellow snowmobilers on December 28, 2008. Adams and two others were able to dig themselves out. Eight people died beneath the snow. While authorities were able to find seven of the bodies, they could not locate the eighth. Adams returned to the scene of the incident and, within an hour, led search teams to the body of the final victim.

The Harvey Pass tragedy sent a wave of grief deep into the heart of the people of Sparwood, British Columbia. All 11 of the snowmobilers were from Sparwood, and it seemed that not even one of the close to 4 000 citizens of the town was unaffected. Meanwhile the rest of Canada looked on in wonder. For those who never venture into the mountain backcountry, one question persistently came up: why do so many people die each year in Canada in avalanches? On average, each year, 14 people die of asphyxiation under the snow or as a result of severe trauma in avalanche incidents.

Most of the time the victims are backcountry skiers or snowboarders who trigger avalanches either when they are hiking up a slope or descending on their skis or boards.

Recently, however, there has been a marked rise in the number of snowmobilers dying in avalanche incidents. In fact, over half of the fatalities in the winter of 2008-09 were snowmobilers. Experts claim that snowmobiles are being built with more speed and greater endurance. This allows snowmobilers to travel deeper into the backcountry and higher on mountainous terrain. Extreme snowmobiling activities

like highmarking—where a snowmobiler rapidly ascends a mountain slope, climbing as high as possible before turning and descending the slope—demonstrate the power of the modern snowmobile while also putting snowmobilers in the sights of “white dragons.”

Almost immediately people wondered if the men from Sparwood had taken unnecessary risks that day. Visions of the 11 men riding their snowmobiles wildly through the backcountry, highmarking on steep slopes, while pushing their machines to their limits ruled many imaginations. However, it quickly became very clear that the victims from Sparwood were experienced snowmobilers who took many precautions.

Nonetheless, the men were out snowmobiling on a day when the Canadian Avalanche Centre (www.avalanche.ca) deemed the risk of an avalanche to be “considerable.”

Within days of the Harvey Pass tragedy, a skier and a snowboarder died at Whistler-Blackcomb Resort in separate avalanches. The two men had ignored resort signs declaring the slopes closed and had skied to their deaths. They had broken almost every safety rule that experts say people should follow before heading onto avalanche-prone terrain.

So Canadians were faced with two extremes during the holiday season: on the one hand, eight snowmobilers took precautions and fell victim to an avalanche, while a skier and a snowboarder acted recklessly and met the same fate. Either way, cautious or not, white dragons claimed the same deadly prize.

So why take the risk? Perhaps it is the rise in popularity of extreme sports and

Did you know . . .

When *News in Review* staff first started to work on this story, 16 people had lost their lives in avalanches, and before our work was completed, this tragic number had grown to 25.

the desire of a segment of the population to push their bodies to the limit. The goal of those pursuing backcountry sports like highmarking seems to be an adrenaline rush that demonstrates an individual's ability to beat the odds and survive nature's wrath. However, is the rush really worth the cost? How can one really know if a shelf of snow is going to detach from a mountain and speed down a slope at hundreds of kilometres

per hour? How can one be certain that a white dragon won't come looking for them? Maybe it's the unpredictable nature of the backcountry that motivates recreationists to take their chances in a duel with the mountain. Or maybe some people think they are invincible. Regardless of the reasons, white dragons lie in wait, ready to strike again with little concern for the adrenaline urges of those tempting fate in the backcountry.

Questions

1. How are most avalanches triggered?

2. Why is the number of snowmobilers dying in avalanches on the rise?

3. What is highmarking? _____

4. Do you think that the Sparwood snowmobilers acted recklessly on the day they died? Explain the reasons for your answer.

5. What two extremes did Canadians face during the holiday season of 2008-09?

6. Why do you think people are willing to risk their lives in the backcountry?

7. How interested are you in extreme sports? Why?

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Video Review

Carefully respond in the spaces provided to the following questions.

1. How many people were killed by avalanches over the course of winter of 2008-09? _____.
2. What is the nickname for the killer event referred to at the beginning of the documentary?

3. Why does Bruce Allen respect avalanches?

4. What does Bruce Allen mean when he says "temperature is the engine of crystal change"?

5. What role do snow crystals and snow layers play in the start of an avalanche?

6. How fast do avalanches travel? How many avalanches hit the area around Revelstoke per year?

7. Describe a typical avalanche guard.

8. Why are more snowmobilers dying in avalanches in Canada and the United States than did so in the past?

9. Why are skiers so attracted to backcountry skiing? What precautions do skiers take before going into the backcountry?

10. a) While the experiment with the tracking dog was compelling, what is the sad reality about the fate of someone who finds themselves buried by an avalanche?

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VI *A Deadly Season*

December 28, 2008 – 1:40 p.m. – 8 snowmobilers die

Location: Harvey Pass – Rocky Mountains, British Columbia

Description: Two separate avalanches release, burying 11 snowmobilers. Three escape and are forced to leave eight others behind. On their way out of the area, a third avalanche releases, leaving the victims under three metres of snow. All 11 snowmobilers were experienced in the backcountry and were properly equipped for backcountry recreation.

December 31, 2009 – 2:30 p.m. – 1 skier dies
Location: Blackcomb Mountain – Coast Ranges, British Columbia

Description: A skier bypasses a sign reading “Ski Area Boundary – HIGH AVALANCHE HAZARD – minimal avalanche control” in order to ski the Ruby Bowl run that resort staff had closed due to avalanche danger. The skier triggers an avalanche and is buried beneath a metre of snow. He is reported missing later that evening, and his body is discovered on the mountain the next day.

January 1, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – 1 snowboarder dies

Location: Whistler Mountain – Coast Ranges, British Columbia

Description: A snowboarder enters an out-of-bounds area known as the Secret Chutes on New Year’s Day. He gets partway down the hill when an avalanche sweeps down the mountain and buries him. Whistler Ski Patrol and rescue volunteers help dig out his body before the sun goes down that day.

January 8, 2009 – 1:15 p.m. – 1 snowboarder dies

Location: Mount Alice – Coast Ranges, British Columbia

Description: Four snowboarders trigger an avalanche on Mount Alice near Terrace, B.C. A father and his son find themselves buried in the incident. The son is rescued, but the father dies under the snow.

January 11, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Mount Mara – Monashee Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: A snowmobiler is traversing up-slope on Mount Mara when a third to half of the snow in the bowl releases, burying the man in the snow. He is not equipped with a transceiver, so it takes search crews a long time to find the body.

January 11, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Hassler Flats – Northern Rockies, British Columbia

Description: A group of 14 snowmobilers is riding in the Hassler Flats area when an avalanche buries five members of the party. Investigators later discover that most of the rescuers had to dig out the buried with their bare hands. Four snowmobilers are injured in the incident and one dies.

January 14, 2009 – 2:15 p.m. – 1 hiker dies

Location: Kananaskis – Rocky Mountains, Alberta

Description: Two hikers, neither of whom have avalanche safety equipment, are caught on the same slope when an avalanche gives way, burying one and partially burying another. The completely

Quote

"You live in the mountains and avalanches come down. That's just what happens."

—Keith Grasdahl, B.C., snowmobiler (*Toronto Star*, March 10, 2009)

buried man dies under the snow.

January 16, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Valemount – Cariboo Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: Seven experienced snowmobilers equipped with air bag systems (ABS), shovels, and transceivers are riding up and down a hill in an area prone to avalanches. At one point, while two sleds are on the hill, the slope gives way and carries one of the snowmobilers away, ejecting him from his machine and burying him in the snow. The other six snowmobilers act quickly, setting their transceivers to "find" and digging the man out of the snow. Unfortunately, the victim is already dead when his companions reach him.

January 17, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Babcock Mountain – Northern Rockies, British Columbia

Description: Six snowmobilers are highmarking up and over Babcock Mountain. At one point, a snowmobiler is descending the north side of the mountain when he triggers an avalanche that barrels down two of the five avalanche chutes well known to backcountry travellers in the Northern Rockies. The victim tumbles down the mountain with the avalanche and eventually dies under the snow. While the victim is equipped with a transceiver, none of his companions have one, and they spend a great deal of time trying to find him in the snow.

March 7, 2009 – 2:20 p.m. – 2 skiers die

Location: Kicking Horse Mountain Resort – Purcell Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: Two skiers are killed by an avalanche when they venture into a closed area of Kicking Horse Mountain Resort. The men are part of a four-person

group skiing in an area called the Fuez Bowl. The men are dug out with vital signs absent about 90 minutes after the avalanche by rescue teams.

March 18, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Mica Mountain – Cariboo Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: Two people are snowmobiling in the Spanish Lake area when a slab avalanche descends Mica Mountain, killing one. The slab is 200 metres wide and travels for 250 metres before burying the victim in a metre of snow.

March 21, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Whitewater Creek – Cariboo Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: A group of four snowmobilers is traversing from bowl to bowl in this mountain area, increasing their highmarks as they move along. When the avalanche is triggered, two snowmobilers are in the bowl. One is able to ride out while the other is swept through a sparsely forested area to his death.

March 24, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – 2 snowmobilers die

Location: Renshaw Mountain – Rocky Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: A group of three snowmobilers is traversing Renshaw Mountain when an avalanche hits, burying all three men. One man manages to dig himself out, while the other two die beneath the snow.

March 25, 2009 – 1:00pm – 1 snowmobiler dies

Location: Hellroaring Creek – Purcell Mountain Range, British Columbia

Description: A slab avalanche is triggered when five snowmobilers are

highmarking in the backcountry. The avalanche buries one man. He is located by his transceiver signal within 20 minutes, three metres below the snow. Once his companions dig him out, CPR

is administered, but to no avail.

Source: The Canadian Avalanche Centre (www.avalanche.ca). See "Recent Avalanche Incident Info."

Activity

Identify and evaluate each of the incidents noted above by filling in the following chart.

Activity	# of fatal incidents	# of incidents you think demonstrate reckless or careless behaviour on the part of the victim(s)
Skiing		
Snowboarding		
Hiking		
Snowmobiling		

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Death in Harvey Valley

CBC Archives

An excellent audio-visual account of avalanches in Canada can be explored at the CBC Digital Archives. Explore the file "Avalanche" at http://archives.cbc.ca/environment/natural_disasters/topics/1483/.

Two separate groups set out from Sparwood, B.C., on the morning of December 28 on a snowmobile journey through the backcountry toward Golden, B.C. It was an idyllic journey through the majestic mountains of British Columbia. The 11 men were experienced "sledheads"—the nickname adopted by avid snowmobilers—who were well aware of the risks involved in backcountry adventures. The leaders of both groups took as many precautions as they could that morning. There had been a pretty sizeable dumping of snow in the previous 24 hours, and the Canadian Avalanche Centre warned snowmobilers that the likelihood of an avalanche was "considerable"—three out of five on the organization's rating scale. Based on this information, and independent of each other, they determined that their journey should be safe if they travelled below the tree line and avoided avalanche chutes in the upper mountain regions. They checked their gear to make sure their transceivers worked in case they or a member of their party was buried. They made sure their probes were strong in case they had to find someone buried in the snow. And they made their shovels accessible in case they had to dig somebody out. Within a few hours of each other, the two groups set out before dawn with the intention of being home by mid-afternoon when warm weather would likely make the snowpack unstable.

The initial group of seven men got onto the trails first and set out toward Golden via Harvey Pass. The second group of four men parked their vehicles in the same parking lot as the first group, hopped on their snowmobiles, and followed their tracks, hoping to catch up

to them before lunch time. A few hours later, at about 1:30 p.m., the lead group was travelling along the valley floor near Harvey Pass when Mike Stier's snowmobile got stuck in the snow. Little did Stier know that, while he was working to free his machine, a large shelf of snow and ice had released from the mountain, and an avalanche, obscured by the clouds, was barreling down the mountainside.

Within seconds, the snowmobilers spotted a "white dragon" and prepared for the worst. Three members of the group: Mike Steir, Danny Bjarnson, and Jeff Adams were buried in the avalanche. The other four members of the group turned their transceivers to "find" and set about the task of digging the men out of the snow. By this time, the second group arrived and found their friends from Sparwood digging frantically. They too set their transceivers to "find," and eventually Bjarnson and Adams were pulled out of the snow. The rescuers set about making contingency plans. Kurt Kabel pressed 911 on his spot transmitter to let the authorities know there was a problem in Harvey Pass. Jeremy Rusnak prepared his machine to go and get help. Meanwhile, the other men continued to dig down toward Stier. Before any contingency plans could be enacted, and before they could get to Stier, a second, more powerful avalanche stormed down the hill and buried everyone.

The second avalanche hit shortly after 2:00 p.m. Jeff Adams was first out of the snow about five minutes after the avalanche buried the group. When he looked around he could not see anybody or any of their gear. It was just a sea of snow. He shouted and heard someone shout back. He followed the sound of the

Quote

"The entire town is going to be crushed. It would be bad enough to heal after one. How do you heal after eight?" — Lana, a longtime friend of some of the men, who didn't want her last name published (*Vancouver Sun*, December 30, 2008)

voice and discovered Jeremy Rusnak. With his shovel and gloves buried in the avalanche, Adams spent 15 minutes digging Rusnak out with his bare hands. They both got up and started shouting again in a desperate search for survivors. Finally they heard someone respond. It was James Drake. Adams and Rusnak rushed over and started to dig out Drake. A few minutes into the rescue they heard another crack in the mountain. Consumed with fear, Adams and Rusnak ran for their lives with Drake shouting in the background, "Don't leave me here! Don't leave me here!" Whatever made the cracking sound didn't hit the men and they returned to finish digging out Drake.

The three men gathered their strength and took a look around. It was absolutely eerie; no equipment, no debris, and no people. They checked their transceivers and could only pick up Mike Stier's signal. He was far too deep for three exhausted men with no rescue equipment to get to. Sadly, the other men could not be found either. Their transceivers were useless at this point since everyone under the snow had switched their units to "find" in their efforts to save Stier. They surveyed the area, looked for any sign of life, and finally made the painful decision to walk away from the avalanche scene to find help. About 10 minutes after leaving the area they heard another crack and turned to see the snowpack on the centre of the mountain slip from the hill. It was the largest of the avalanches that

day and it completely buried everything in the valley floor.

The men walked for a few more kilometres when they saw a helicopter hovering over the avalanche site. Eventually, the helicopter made its way away from the scene and, after a few minutes, found the three men. It picked them up and brought them to safety. The bodies of the other eight men would be retrieved over the course of the next two days, with some of them buried three metres below the snow.

Officials from the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC) investigated the incident and concluded that the men had taken the necessary precautions prior to setting out that day. While forecasters deemed the likelihood of an avalanche as "considerable," the men made the wise decision to travel in low areas and avoid activities like highmarking. What the men didn't know, and the CAC wasn't able to predict, was the effect of a rapid rise in temperature over the course of the morning. The warm weather made the top layer of snow heavy enough to slip off the layer of ice that rested below it. This is likely what triggered the series of avalanches that killed the eight men from Sparwood and sent a community into heartbreaking grief.

Sources: *The Globe and Mail*, "Avalanche tragedy: One of three survivors tells his gut-wrenching tale," January 1, 2009; "A cold new year in the valley of tears," January 3, 2009.

Questions

1. What precautions did the snowmobilers take prior to heading into the backcountry?
2. Make a point-form timeline of the events of December 28.
3. What likely caused the avalanche that killed the eight men?
4. Should anyone be snowmobiling in mountain areas at all? Explain.

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Avalanche Facts

Further Research

To learn more about these powerful forces of nature, consider a visit to the official Web site of *National Geographic* magazine (www.nationalgeographic.com) and search for "avalanches."

Review the following point-form information and complete the activity that follows.

- There are approximately 150 avalanche fatalities reported every year by the 17 member countries of the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR-www.ikar-cisa.org).
 - According to the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC), Canada has experienced over 350 deadly avalanches since 1782, resulting in the deaths of more than 700 people. Around 60 per cent of avalanche fatalities occurred in BC.
 - Each year an average of 14 people die in avalanches in Canada.
 - The worst avalanche fatality count in recent history occurred in 2003 when 29 people died in Canadian avalanches; the winter of 2008-09 came close with 23 deaths, 17 of whom were snowmobilers.
 - Most avalanche victims are men in their 20s participating in backcountry skiing and snowboarding. Snowmobiling fatalities are rising because of a growth in the number of snowmobilers and improvements in snowmobile technology that allow snowmobilers to travel deeper into the backcountry.
 - 73 per cent of people killed in avalanches died during the months of January, February, and March, compared with 23 per cent during November, December, and April
 - Most avalanche fatalities occur between the hours of noon and 2:00 p.m.
 - 55 per cent of avalanches are triggered by people hiking, skiing, or snowboarding.
 - 32 per cent of avalanches are triggered by snowmobilers.
 - Almost half of avalanche incidents in Canada occurred in the interior ranges of British Columbia (compared with 34 per cent in the Rocky Mountains and 16 per cent in the Coast Mountains).
- Most killer avalanches:
- Occur under clear skies with little or no snowfall and light or calm winds.
 - Occur within 48 hours of a heavy snowfall.
 - Are slab-type avalanches, with an average thickness of less than one metre.
 - Are triggered by victims or members of the victim's group.
 - Start above or near the tree line on slopes that are loaded with drifting snow or fresh snow that is resting on an unstable layer of snow or ice beneath it.
 - Occur on 30–40° slopes, often at a convex part of the hill.
- People buried in an avalanche have a:
- 92 per cent chance of survival if they are dug out within 15 minutes.
 - 30 per cent chance of survival if they are dug out within 30 minutes.
 - 27 per cent chance of survival if they are dug out within 90 minutes.
 - 3 per cent chance of survival if they are dug out within 130 minutes.
- Leading causes of death for avalanche victims:
1. Asphyxiation
 2. Trauma
- Source: Canadian Avalanche Centre (http://avalanche.ca/CAC_Knowledge_Incident)

Activity

Use the information above to write a newspaper article called "Killer Avalanches." Length of article: 350 – 500 words

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Staying Alive

Venturing into mountain backcountry requires a conscious respect for “white dragons.” An avalanche can strike at any time, and proper preparation is essential to avoid the fate of those who have died under the snow due to poor decision-making and poor preparation.

Staying Alive – Step 1: Education

If you are planning to explore the backcountry, avalanche education is a must. Most avalanches form during erratic weather cycles involving warm temperatures followed by cold temperatures, with precipitation accompanying both weather fronts. For instance, a snowstorm in cold weather followed closely by rain and warmer weather followed by another snowstorm and colder weather is a perfect recipe for an avalanche. The combination of mixed precipitation and temperature changes often creates an unstable snow pack resting on an ice shelf. When hikers, skiers, or snowboarders traverse this type of terrain, or snowmobiles agitate the snowpack, the potential for the snow to detach from the hill and slide along the ice is great. Backcountry thrill-seekers should educate themselves about the nature of avalanches and the various things that trigger them.

Skiers, snowboarders, hikers, and snowmobilers also need to train their eyes to identify potential avalanche paths. If a person enters an area of sparse forest with broken trees, odds are they are in an avalanche path. Backcountry adventurers should also avoid chutes where snow can collect and funnel down the mountain. They should also look for snowdrifts near mountaintops that form on slopes that are protected from the wind. Drifting snow that blows over from another mountain is often the

most unstable snow in the snowpack and poses a tremendous avalanche risk. According to the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC), the inability to recognize avalanche terrain and snow stability are two of the leading mistakes that people make when travelling in backcountry areas. With close to 1 400 avalanche paths in British Columbia alone, recreationists have a lot to know before venturing into the backcountry.

Staying Alive – Step 2: Preparation

The CAC sees poor trip preparation as the leading cause of avalanche fatalities and injuries. Travelling into the backcountry is risky business and people should never venture there alone. Groups are the way to go, so people can look out for each other in case something goes wrong. The inexperienced should always seek out leaders who have plenty of experience in traversing backcountry terrain.

The CAC sees the following as essential preparation steps for backcountry recreationists:

Essential Planning

- Plot a route that avoids avalanche chutes.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Check the CAC forecast.
- Travel with a group of people and designate one member of the group as the leader.

Essential Equipment

- Portable shovel: for digging victims out
- Probe pole: for finding victims under the snow
- Transceiver: a beacon that pinpoints the precise location of someone buried in the snow

Staying Alive – Step 3: Know the Risks, Work as a Team

When travelling with a group, the leader should take the point position when traversing the terrain. The leader should look for potential instability in the snowpack and steer the group away from danger. Those who are following need to pay attention as well; the more people watching the snow, the better it is for the entire group. If it becomes necessary to cross a potentially dangerous slope, group members should cross one at a time. This rule applies to all backcountry recreationists. The other group members should watch for shifts in the snowpack to see if they can spot any avalanche warning signs. It is best for groups moving through the backcountry to think as a team. While one person is designated the leader, the others play an equally important role in ensuring the team is able to move through the backcountry safely as a cohesive unit.

Staying Alive – Step 4: Save a Friend, Save Yourself

The unpredictability of the snowpack can leave even the most experienced backcountry traveller susceptible to an avalanche. If an avalanche strikes, people are advised to forget about their equipment and use a swimming motion to pull themselves to the top of the snow. While skiers, snowboarders,

or snowmobilers might think that they can outrun a white dragon, they need to keep in mind that avalanches can travel at hundreds of kilometres per hour. For a person to stay close to the top of the sliding snow they are advised to keep moving and reach up, because once the avalanche stops, the snow instantly hardens. By reaching up they keep an arm or two free so they can dig themselves out. If they become completely immersed in the snow, they should keep their mouths closed so that they don't swallow snow, and use their hands to create an air pocket around their face. Finally, they will need to stay calm and avoid wasting energy.

The people in the group who aren't buried need to act quickly and rationally when they see a member of their group go under. If a group member gets swept away, each member of the group should maintain visual contact with the person to see where they may be buried. Once it is safe to go toward the spot where the person is likely buried, all group members should set their transceivers to "find" and try to locate the victim. Probes should be used to confirm the precise location of the person. Then it's time to dig—carefully and evenly until the victim can be brought to the surface.

Source: Canadian Avalanche Centre, http://avalanche.ca/CAC_Knowledge_Incident

Questions

1. How are avalanches formed?
2. Why is avalanche education so important for someone who is thinking about venturing into the backcountry?
3. What planning and equipment provisions need to be made before heading out on a backcountry trip?
4. Why is having an experienced leader so important in the backcountry?
5. Review the information regarding what needs to be done if you or a member of your group is buried in an avalanche. Does the information make you think backcountry adventures are worth the risk or not worth the risk? Explain fully.

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Activity: An Informal Debate

Each year people are rescued by emergency services personnel after engaging in high-risk behaviour in the backcountry. Rescues cost a lot of money and require substantial resources. For example, if snowmobilers trigger an avalanche while highmarking on a mountainside and they need to be rescued, odds are rescuers will have to rush to the scene and a helicopter will have to be dispatched to pick up anyone who is hurt. The question you need to consider for this task is:

Should a person or group engaging in high-risk behaviour like highmarking or backcountry skiing be required to cover the cost of their own rescue?

Group Format

- Form a group of four.
- Two group members will take the position that emergency services are for everyone and that no one should have to pay to be rescued.
- Two group members will take the position that people engaging in risky behaviour should have to pay for their rescue in the event that they need emergency services to get them out of trouble.

Process

1. You and your partner should find another area of the room to work away from the two people who are going to oppose your view.
2. Make a list of pros and cons surrounding your position. This will give you an idea of the strengths involved in your argument and the arguments the other side might use against your position.
3. Get back together with the other two members of your group. Be careful not to let the other side see the piece of paper on which you wrote your points.
4. State the points for your position and debate those points one at a time. State your points clearly and allow the other side a chance to challenge your points. When you are finished let the other side state their points, and you challenge what it is they have to say.
5. Finally, share your pros and cons list with the other side. How effective were you at predicting the arguments they used against your argument?

Extension

Write a 200- to 300-word report answering the debate question. What do you think? Should a person or group engaging in dangerous behaviour have to cover the cost of their rescue?