

The Dynamics of Accidents Formula
As the Accident Potential goes up, the margin of safety goes down.

Environmental Hazards + Human Factor Hazards = Accident Potential

A. Environment

- * High Water
- * Cold temperature (water/air) *
- * Foot entrapment
- * Strainers
- Pinning / entrapment
- Undercut rocks / ledges
- Dams / Low water bridges
- Holes
- Strong eddy lines / cross currents
- Overexposure to wind / sun

B. Equipment

- Boat ill-suited for individual/river
- * No Life Jacket *
- Failure to wear life jacket
- Improper clothing for temperature
- Boat in poor repair / Overloaded
- No food or water
- No Throw Rope

A. Individuals

- Limited Understanding / Respect for Environmental Hazards
- Unaware of Actual Skill Level
- Poor Judgment/ Decisions/ Planning
- * Alcohol * / Drugs
- Poor Boat Control
- Lack of Training, Practice, Experience*
- Not a Competent Swimmer
- Exhaustion / Fear
- Other inexperienced paddlers
- Need to prove self
- Lack of physical strength, stamina

B. Group

- Poor communication/visual contact
- Failure to maintain spacing & pace
- Lack of attention to slower individuals
- Peer Pressure to perform / continue

C. Trip Leaders

- Poor Planning / Judgment
- Poor Decision to Put In or Continue
- Ineffectual under stress
- of emergency situation
- Unclear instructions
- Failure to Anticipate & Avoid Hazards
- Failure to Supervise and Control

Accidents

- * *Fear Replaces Fun*
- * *Hypothermia*
- Cuts & Bruises*
- Broken Bones*
- Shoulder dislocation*
- Loss of gear or boat*
- Boat pin*
- Foot entrapment*
- Broached boat*
- Head Injury*
- Spinal Injury*
- * **DROWNING**