

How Do You Improve Your Safety Margin

by Shaun King ACMG, guest speaker at the 42nd KMC AGM in Nelson, BC.

What Improves Your Safety Margin?

1. Technical Skills
2. Fitness/ability
3. Experience
4. Knowledge
5. Training
6. Equipment

Experience, knowledge and training contribute to judgement.

Difficulty versus Skill:

- High difficulty/low skill equals an epic
- High skill/low difficulty equals recreation
- The right balance between skill and difficulty equals adventure.

Definition of an Epic:

- A night out or unprepared return in the dark
- Lost or off route for hours
- Key equipment lost or broken
- Accident or injury with slow to no rescue

Most accidents/epics are caused by pilot error with bad planning ⇒ bad decisions ⇒ incidents ⇒ accidents and epics.

Human Factors:

- Risk tolerance
- Injury, illness, fatigue, stress
- Egos

How to Avoid an Epic:

1. Know your team
2. Pick a reasonable objective
3. Know your options
4. Start early
5. Keep your head up and your eyes open
6. Anticipate and be prepared
7. Recognize problems and deal with them early
8. Manage your time
9. Debrief every day.