

The Real Cost: Some Principles of Risk Management

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Abstract

The ASF Safety, Leadership and Risk Management (SLARM) is a committee that exists to serve the needs of ASF members and represent these to karst managers, landholders and others who have an interest in caves and caving. This paper sets out some of the basic principles that have been (or should be) applied to develop the ASF Safety Guidelines.

Risk assessment is only part of risk management. Risk management begins with the fundamental attitudes that define acceptable situations and behaviours. What does it mean to be an ASF member? What does ASF expect of its members and leaders? The idea of duty of care and responsible leadership from the perspective of new members needs to be clarified. Does this change over time? How and why?

This paper introduces some of the basic principles of risk management, starting with risk assessment – what do all the words mean anyway? This is followed with an overview of how, where and when ASF members can address these risks; and finishes with a brief look at the consequences of poorly managed risk for members.

The application of these principles is Management Practice and will be explored in a workshop at the ASF conference.



Caroline Forrest undertaking a tricky manoeuvre in the SpeleoSports. Photo: D. Carr