

Human Factors and Led Outdoor Activity Incidents

Stage 2 Overview

After consultation with MUARC, it is proposed that stage 2 involve the development, validation, and application of a systems-based accident data collection and analysis framework and a model of led outdoor activity accidents.

These outputs will support the construction and operation of a database of led outdoor activity accidents and incidents in Australia. Stage 2 is therefore likely to involve the following steps (see Figure 1):

1. The development of prototype accident data collection and analysis methods;
2. The conduct of a validation study for the accident data collection and analysis methods developed;
3. Redevelopment of the methods developed based on the validation study;
4. The conduct of an in-depth accident analysis study for led outdoor activity accidents and incidents in Australia;
5. The development of countermeasures based on the findings derived from the in-depth accident analysis study.

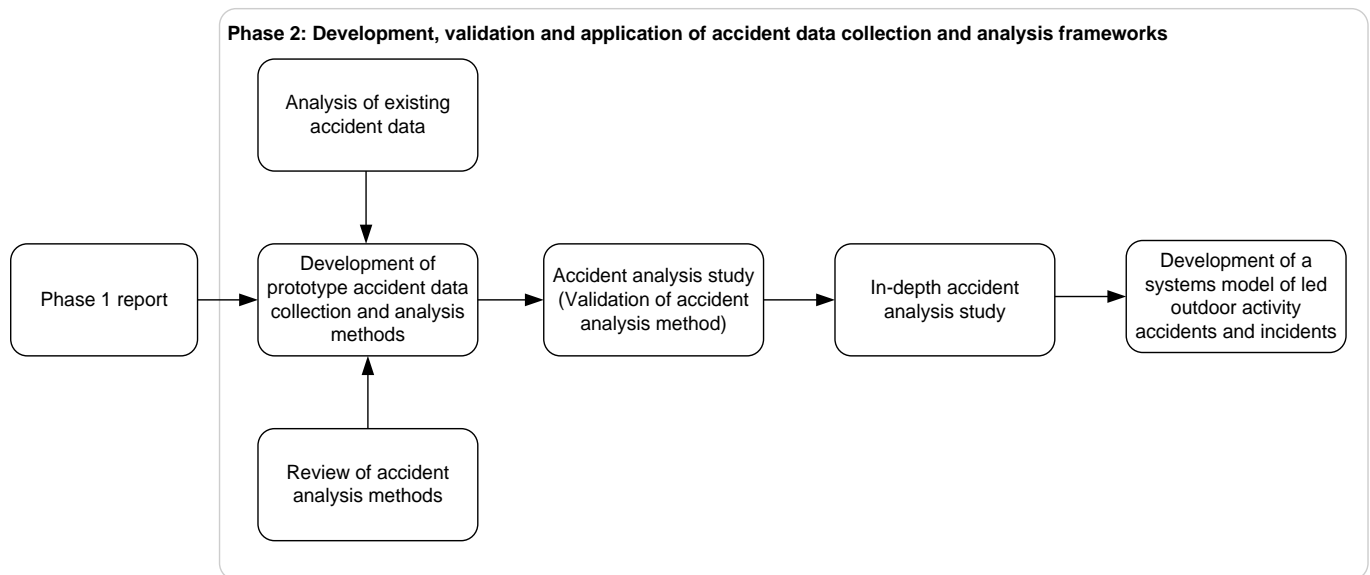


Figure 1. Proposed stage 2 steps.

Stage 3 is planned to include the construction of the database using the framework developed and validated during stage 2.

ARC Linkage Project Grant Opportunity

As it represents a research collaboration between industry (led outdoor activity providers) and MUARC, Stage 2 is suited to an application for Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grant. ARC linkage grants are designed to support the development of relationships between industry and the tertiary education sector.

The steering committee met with MUARC on 22 February 2010 and determined that the ARC linkage scheme is an appropriate one to pursue for Stage 2. In summary, the process includes:

- MUARC, in consultation with the steering committee, developing a detailed project proposal for submission to the ARC (deadline May 2010);
- Within the proposal, partner organisations from industry agree to contribute a cash and 'work in kind' figure per year to the project;
- MUARC request a cash sum from the ARC that reflects the contribution from industry (typically around 1:1, the total grant amount can be as much but not more than the dollar and work in kind amount);
- October 2010 approximate timeline for grant application approval (if successful), with funding beginning January 2011.

The typical success rate for ARC linkage schemes is 46%. Many factors are in our favour, such as the evidence of a working relationship between MUARC and industry (from phase 1), Drs Paul Salmon and Mike Lenné's previous experience in the area and strong research track records (e.g. publications and grants), and the involvement of National, state and local industry partners.

Way forward

As a result with the steering committee's meeting with MUARC on 22 February 2010, the steering committee need to determine what cash and in-kind contributions can be made from the different organisations involved. Based on the proposed research, it is likely that 'in-kind' support during the project would involve any of the following:

- Accident and incident data collection;
- Coding and preparation of existing data sets for further analysis by MUARC;
- Subject matter expert input into the accident data collection and analysis methods developed;
- Review and validation of the data collection and analysis methods developed;
- Review and validation of led outdoor education accident analyses;
- Use of the methods to collect and analyse accident data during method validation studies;
- Training led outdoor industry members in the methods developed.

References

Salmon, P. M., Williamson, A., Lenné, M. G., Mitsopoulos, E., & Rudin-Brown, C. (2010). Understanding accidents in the great outdoors: Testing a risk management framework in the led outdoor activity domain. In proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics, 17th -20th July, Miami, Florida, USA.

Dr Paul Salmon
Monash University Accident Research Centre

From the Steering Committee

By now you should have read where the project is up to. The possibility of securing an ARC grant is both exciting, but daunting. The possibilities for outcomes based on a research project which runs longer and can engage both more researchers and more industry players are significantly more powerful.

With the lure of better outcomes, however comes a responsibility to play our part both in terms of monies promised and work in kind delivered.

Simply put that we need from “industry” are the following things.

- Support for the nature and outcomes of this research
- Firm commitments of money over the expected 3 year lifespan of the project
- Firm commitments of work in kind over the expected 3 year lifespan of the project
- A willingness to attend and participate in update workshops perhaps as frequently as once each year

In practical terms we need commitments from industry promised in writing by early April 2010, for both cash amounts and in kind suggestions. The committed amounts, and work in kind suggestions will be included by MUARC in the grant submission, which will be vetted by the Monash University Research department prior to the application being submitted to the Australian Research Council in early May 2010.

For the purposes of securing an ARC grant, and managing the finances, there are practical limits on how many direct financial contributors there can be (ie we cannot have 27 direct contributors – the ARC and Monash University could not manage this many individual contracts).

We are therefore proposing that most contributions be made through a peak body, and will shortly be recommending a short list of peak bodies each of which will enter formally into a contract with both Monash University and the ARC. Subsequent to this, each industry contributor who is prepared to offer money or work in kind, will enter into a similar but simpler agreement with the peak body who channels their funds through to the project.

We would ask you to consider a contribution to this project bearing in mind a few salient points

1. Dollar contributions and in kind contributions which meet the guidelines for suitable in kind offers are tallied.
2. These amounts need to be considered as annual and must be ongoing for the life of the project (2 or 3 yrs).
3. The life span of the project will be made clear to each stakeholder prior to commitment being made – but is not yet clear.
4. The final amount determines the size of the grant application - the ARC will match but not exceed the amounts of money and “in-kind” so the industry tally is vital to determining the size of the project.
5. Single year projects are rarely funded and can be seen more like contract work.

You can make contact with any of the steering committee members to discuss, but we would prefer most correspondence be passed to Murray Tucker and by email if you are able.

The Human Factors in Led Outdoor Incidents Project Steering Committee

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