Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 940

First Author	
First Name	Ludovic (1,2)
Last Name	Ravanel
Submitting Author	
First Name	Ludovic
Last Name	Ravanel
Correspondence	Ludovic.Ravanel@univ-smb.fr
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Batoux, Philippe (3); Pallandre, François (3,2)
Organisations	1: EDYTEM Lab, University Savoie Mont-Blanc, CNRS (UMR 5204), Le Bourget-du-Lac, France 2: Chamonix Guides Company, Chamonix, France 3: National Ski and Mountaineering French School (ENSA), ENSM, Chamonix, France
Country	France
Region	Western Europe
Title	Dealing With Hazards While Acquiring Valuable Data: Researchers' Safety During Fieldwork In High Mountain Areas.
Keywords	High Mountain, Field Trips, Risks, Safety
Type	List Of Focus Session
Focus Session ID	19

Abstract

Field trips are a major component of research in geosciences. When working on high mountain objects (rock faces, glaciers, moraines, high altitude species, atmosphere...), the question of safety becomes much more crucial than on less rugged and lower altitude fields. Indeed, the challenging topography and the harsh weather conditions combine to increase the risks.

For most of the studies, the researcher is climbing classic routes and use standard methods of alpinism techniques and risk management. The researcher is indeed confronted with the same dangers as any other mountaineer (falls, crevasses, avalanches, séracs, rockfalls, landslides, etc.) and several 'safety pillars' must be respected: preparation, equipment, level of training and professional courses, management of the trip, adaptation in the field, and first aid and rescue. We will discuss them and identify some guidelines.

We will also deal with the 'human factors' because the researcher may be subject to insidious constraints like necessarily bringing back the expected data because i) the weather is bad afterwards, ii) the trip is expensive, iii) the project funding stops, iv) the PhD student needs the data, v) the scientific question is really exciting...

At last, occasionally, the researcher sometimes goes in places where nobody goes usually, somehow breaking the rules and pushing the limits. In such a case, to combine daring with safety, the risk has to be reduced by the efficiency of the team, with perfect technical skills and exemplary coordination in order to keep the time of exposure to risks to an absolute minimum.