



## Accidentology of mountain sports Situation review and diagnosis

**Funded by the Petzl Foundation since 2012, a team of social science researchers published a research report on mountain sport accidents in December 2014. The aim of this project was to enhance accident prevention by sharing knowledge and information.**

The research report is the result of the collection and cross-referencing of existing data about mountain sport accidents in France and abroad. Its purpose was to investigate the scope of the accident occurrence victim profiles, and the explanatory factors and situations that cause accidents.

**This report is the first stage of a larger project. The second stage will go beyond the statistics and seek to identify the chain of events, the natural phenomena, objective hazards, and technical issues that either lead to a near-miss or worse, to a serious accident involving multiple victims.**

### ***The research report tells us that:***

- ⇒ *The Mont-Blanc mountain range (French side) alone accounts for more than 30% of deaths related to a mountain sport in France, almost half of which occur during mountaineering.*
- ⇒ *Most serious or fatal accidents appear to involve local inhabitants, who would be expected to have sufficient knowledge to analyse the risks adequately. However, they are particularly exposed due to the large number of mountain excursions they undertake.*
- ⇒ *Among the victims rescued in the Mont-Blanc mountains (French side), men account for 81% of deaths. More than 80% of deaths in the Austrian mountains are also men.*
- ⇒ *Accidents generally occur during descent, in many cases, away from the main passages considered to be the most difficult.*

**> Download the report here: [www.petzl-foundation.org](http://www.petzl-foundation.org)**



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