Severity scales and ratings

**Severity rating**: Select both the actual and potential severity for the incident. Use the

incident severity scale to rate the severity of the incident.

o **How to rate an incident**.

The key severity rating factor is the “**impact on participation**” column. Do not use the

examples in the injury column as the sole judgment of severity. For example,

blisters are listed as a severity ranking of 3, but if a participant can no longer

participate in a tramp or sea kayak journey for a couple of days, then this could rise

to a severity ranking of 4. Conversely if a participant had blisters on their feet or

hands, but could still walk or paddle then this would **not** be considered an incident

as they can still participate in the activity. If it is an equipment or environmental

incident then use those descriptors. If the incident is a near miss, rate the actual

severity, then rate the potential severity.

o **The importance and usefulness of recording both the actual and potential**

**severity rating of each incident**

A person on a tramp falls 5m down a bank and sprains their ankle. They have to be

evacuated. This incident would rate a severity of 4-5, but in this instance if they had

fallen 1m further they would have gone over a 20m bluff, therefore the potential

severity was a 9 (potential fatality). The high potential severity would warrant further

investigation and consideration as to minimising/reducing/eliminating the risk in this

area, whereas recording only the actual severity may not have highlighted the near miss.

Severity ratings allow you to focus on the incidents that had high actual or potential

severity and put processes in place to prevent future reoccurrence.

Downloaded from http://www.incidentreport.org.nz/resources/OER\_NID\_Guide.pdf