

Leadership in Cinema



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

EVEREST

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Studio: Universal Pictures..... Released: 2015

Genre: Action/Drama Audience Rating: Not rated

Runtime: 121 minutes

Materials

Materials needed to present this course, both for presenter and participants.

Objective

Overall objective of this course/lesson plan.

- Discuss examples of “good” and “bad” operational leadership,
- Discuss the human factors were observed.
- Identify pitfalls in the leadership and how to mitigate.

Basic Plot

On the morning of May 10, 1996, climbers from two commercial expeditions start their final ascent toward the summit of Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth. With little warning, a violent storm strikes the mountain, engulfing the adventurers in one of the fiercest blizzards ever encountered by man. Challenged by the harshest conditions imaginable, the teams must endure blistering winds and freezing temperatures in an epic battle to survive against nearly impossible odds.

Cast of Main Characters

Jason Clarke	Rob Hall, New Zealand expedition group leader
Jake Gyllenhaal	Scott Fischer, American expedition group leader
Josh Brolin	Beck Weathers, U.S doctor and amateur mountain climber
John Hawkes	Doug Hansen, mailman. and amateur mountain climber
Sam Worthington	Guy Cotter, professional guide
Michael Kelly	Jon Krakauer, journalist and amateur mountain climber
Thomas Wright	Michael Groom, Australian mountain climber
Martin Henderson	Andy "Harold" Harris, professional guide
Elizabeth Debicki	Dr. Caroline Mackenzie, base camp physician
Naoko Mori	Yasuko Namba, experienced amateur mountain climber

Facilitator Notes

Obtain the video by streaming, renting or purchasing the film.

Facilitation Tips

- Option to show the film over two 1 hour sessions or a full 2+ hour session of video time
- 45-60+ mins to discuss the questions and any other topics to bring up.

References

Web links or other resources that will help in the delivery of this lesson plan. Links below are some commonly used examples.

- [Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center](#) (search HRO)
- [Wildland Fire Leadership Development](#) Program (WFLDP)
- [High Reliability Organizing – What It Is, Why It Works, How to Lead It](#) (information from the BLM Fire and Aviation Directorate, Division of Fire Operations, March 2010 HRO training session)
- [List of people who died climbing Mount Everest](#)
- [List of media related to Mount Everest](#)
- [Survival film](#), about the film genre, with a list of related films
- [Into Thin Air: Death on Everest](#)
- [After the Wind](#), a book by Lou Kasischke detailing his experiences as a client on Rob Hall's expedition.

Everest

- Review the objectives before the film for discussion after the film.
- Review the following questions below post film presentation.

Discussion Point 1

Discuss examples of “good” and “bad” operational leadership.

- How did the communication amongst leadership affect the outcome on the operation? Do you examples of this on the fire line operations? What was the outcome?
- How was motivation used to inspire the team to reach the summit? Did the motivation change after the reaching the summit? How do you keep firefighters engaged and motivated throughout the fire assignment and the fire season?
- What were some of the ways that initiative to take action were demonstrated or lack thereof during the movie?

Discussion Point 2

Discuss the human factors were observed.

- What type of human factors came into play for the outcome of reaching the summit? What human factor hindered the outcome of returning from the summit?

Discussion Point 3

Identify pitfalls in the leadership and how to mitigate.

- Ego
 - Can do/will do attitude
 - Competitiveness
 - Public Pressure from Jon’s book, pressure from your personal influences
1. What trigger points that were set and not followed?
 2. What type of safety model was this presenting? What are some of the examples that made it this type of model?

Other Questions:

1. How can you apply the 10 standard fire orders to this situation?
2. Why did you become a firefighter? Has your reasons for becoming a firefighter changed?
3. Did you see examples of shared risk or transfer of risk?