

RISK ASSESSMENT: Abseiling

Completed by: Activities Team

Date: 15/02/2019

Review Date: 15/02/2020



What is the Hazard?	Who may be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Risk Rating			Control Measures in Place	Remaining Risk		
			Probability	Severity	Risk		Probability	Severity	Risk
Falling From a Height	All	Breaks and fractures. Death.	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by our Technical Advisor for roped activities. All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with. All participants are provided with a suitable climbing harness. The instructor explains how to fit the harness correctly and checks before the activity commences that the harness is fitted correctly. Whilst abseiling, the participant is connected to an approved climbing knot at all times. The instructor monitors the group to make sure no one undertakes the activity before the instructor has checked their equipment and safety rope. The instructor is responsible for controlling the safety rope at all times. Participants are attached to a platform safety rope whilst being connected to abseil rope and safety line. 	1	5	5
Objects Falling From a Height	All	Bruises, contusions and concussion	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everybody in the area must be wearing a helmet. During 3 monthly inspections, we check to make sure everything is secure such as SRB's. All participants make sure that they have removed everything from their pockets before they put on their climbing harness. Footwear must be appropriate and securely fastened. 	1	4	4
Exposure / Hypothermia and Sunburn	All	Sunburnt skin, high temperature, dehydration	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and participants must have suitable clothing prior to the activity. Both staff and clients to drink plenty of water. Sun cream applied when needed. Wooden shelter at activity to provide participants shelter from the weather. 	1	2	2

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Slips, Trips and Falls	All	Cuts, bruises and grazes	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment not being used is put away in the store. All participants are instructed to wear appropriate footwear. Participants warned about potential hazards. 	1	2	2
Adverse Weather	All	See 'Exposure'	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the first sign of thunder and lightning continue until the flash to bang is no less than 30 secs, at which point the activity stops immediately. The activity may continue 30 minutes after thunder is last heard. If there are high winds then the activity will stop and the tower will be evacuated. Any person on the activity will be lowered down. This decision will be made by the Activities Manager, or the combination of both the Duty Manager and Lead Instructor/s. Refer to 'Adverse Weather' policy 	1	4	4
Group Behaviour	All	Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/ not listening.	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leaders are to ensure that the group is under control at all times. Instructor is to stop the session if participant behaviour becomes dangerous. 	1	3	3
Unauthorised Access	All		4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All access points to be locked when activity is not in use. Any access points to have a sign stating 'No Admittance Unless Authorised.' 	1	5	5
Equipment Failure	Participant		3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment is checked by the instructor prior to being used. Items deemed to be faulty are removed from use immediately, logged and placed in the quarantine bin 6 Monthly inspections to be completed and logged. 	1	5	5

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Entrapment	Participant	Compression/ crushing injuries.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose jewellery to be removed, long hair tied back and loose clothing to be secured. 	1	3	3
Unsupervised Use	Participant		4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area is fenced and has a locked gate which remains locked whilst the activity is not in use. 	1	5	5
Strains or Sprains, and Other Injuries	Participant	Strains and sprains	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors tell the group to be careful whilst on the activity and then monitor them to make sure they are using the activity in the correct way. All staff are first aid trained. The activity area has a first aid kit in it and all staff have a radio if they require extra assistance. 	1	2	2
Structure Failure	All		3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily visual inspections of structure carried out during set up and logged on sheets. Detailed 3 monthly structure checks carried out and recorded. Areas of concern to be inspected by technical advisor. Annual inspection undertaken by competent person 	1	3	3
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency or loss of focus could result in everyone being at risk.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by our Technical Advisor for roped activities. All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with. All instructors are issued with a Handbook outlining all procedures in place for the activity. Where possible, instructors to only work the same session 2 times in one day. Instructors made aware of any changes to activity. 	1	3	3

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Level	Likelihood Factor	Severity Description
1	Very Unlikely	Insignificant – No injury or No First Aid required.
2	Unlikely	Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising.
3	Fairly Likely	Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work.
4	Likely	Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cut etc.
5	Very Likely	Catastrophic – Amputations or Death.