

RISK ASSESSMENT: Climbing

Completed by: Activities Team

Date: 12/05/2021

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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	Participants	Breaks, fractures and death (ground impact)	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by the Technical Advisor. All instructors are regularly monitored by senior staff 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 is checked before ascent that the harness is fitted correctly. Whilst climbing the participant is connected to a safety rope at all times, using a suitable climbing knot. The instructor monitors the group to make sure no one climbs before their equipment and safety rope is checked by the instructor. The group is shown how to belay, either the five point with tailor (pre-arranged groups only) or bell ringing technique depending on the groups level and competency. Appropriately qualified and signed off staff required with a 5 point belay group. Gri Gri's are used as the belay device. Safety knots are put in to the rope by the instructor, at intervals as an extra safety back up. The instructor monitors the group whilst they are belaying. The instructor is responsible for lowering the participant from the activity. In the instance of both participants reaching the top at the same time, the instructor ties one off before lowering the other. 	1	5	5
Equipment Failure	All	Cuts, Lacerations, Death	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment is visually 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 by a PPE inspector having attended a 'Competent Person' course. All structures are checked annually by a competent person. 	1	5	5

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Objects Falling From a Height	All	Bruises, contusions	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everybody in the area must be wearing a helmet. All structural elements are physically checked and recorded during 3 monthly inspections, as well as visually from the ground prior to the start of a session. All participants are to remove everything from their pockets before they put on their climbing harness. Footwear must be appropriate and securely fastened. 	1	2	2
Exposure / Hypothermia and Sunburn	All	Sunburnt skin, high temperature, dehydration	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and participants must have suitable clothing for the weather and activity. Both staff and clients to drink plenty of water. Sun cream applied when needed. Wooden shelters in activity area (Mega tower only). 	1	2	2
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, or stored neatly to the side. Participants warned about potential hazards. All participants must be wearing sensible footwear (closed toe shoes). 	1	1	1
Adverse Weather	All		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 anybody off the ground will be safely lowered down. This decision will be made by the Activities Manager or combination of 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	2	2
Entrapment	All		4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose jewellery to be removed, long hair tied back and loose clothing to be secured. Instructor is trained in adequate rescue technique for activity, as well as a level 2 available onsite for a rescue. 	1	4	4

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			Probability	Severity	Risk		Probability	Severity	Risk
Unauthorised Access	All	Accessing the activity at height without PPE or qualified supervision.	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All access points to be locked when the activity is not in use. Only authorized persons have a key to the area. Any access points to have a sign stating 'No Admittance to Unauthorised Persons.' 	1	5	5
Strains, Sprains and Other Injuries	Participants	Strains and sprains	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to 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 instructing staff to be 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	5	15	<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 concerns to be inspected by technical expert. Annual inspection undertaken by competent person. 	1	4	4
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency and loss of focus could result in putting everyone at danger.	3	5	15	<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 aware of where risk assessments and operating procedures are stored. Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in one day. Instructors made aware of any changes to activity, via activity change sheet. 	1	5	5
Strangulation	All	Broken neck, bruising, rope burn	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure correct belay technique is used to avoid slack rope. Loose items of clothing (e.g. Necker's) are removed. Instructor trained in appropriate rescue techniques. Instructor to ensure participant is attached to the climbing rope appropriately incorporating both harnesses. 	1	5	5

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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.

Remaining Risk Level	Description
1-5	Very low, minimal risk, control measures more than adequate
5-10	Low, control measures satisfactory
10-15	Medium, control measures adequate
15-20	High, control measures need further consideration
20-25	Very high, intolerable, stop Job