

Risk Assessment Activity – Abseiling

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen			Assessed:	Next Review Date
				01/03/21	07/01/22
<p>Overview: Abseiling is carried out on three purpose-built towers supplied and erected by JM Adventure and Adventure Rope Co Ltd. An annual inspection is carried by High Times Technical Consultants. Regular monthly inspection checks are also carried out on equipment by activities staff as well as a quarterly structural check. A qualified Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (WMCI) Chief Instructor has overall responsibility. All other instructors are RCI or CWI qualified, or in-house trained using NGB recognized techniques. An examination to check competency of staff is completed on each staff member by the external and independent Technical Advisor. This process is periodically checked and validated by the Technical Advisor and senior staff members do continual monitoring throughout the year. Preferred Staff to Client ratio is 1:12 and a maximum of 1:16 under supervision (under instruction 1: 1 instructor to abseiler ratio). All appropriate personal protective equipment is worn during sessions.</p>					
Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability	Severity	Risk Category	Control Measures
Structural Failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Fatal	Low	Towers build by approved contractors and external annual inspection are carried out. Quarterly structural checks are carried out.
Falling objects	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Group briefed to empty pockets. All equipment at top of tower secured. Guests briefed on how to stand if objects fall to protect themselves. Emergency procedures.
Unauthorized access to Towers	Instructors, staff, guest/participants, and general public	Very likely	Fatal	Low	Tower doors locked and shut when not in use. Only access to towers is via a trained member of staff. No access signs clearly displayed.
Rope burns	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Group briefed on correct clothing. Instructor supervises guests contact with rope. Instructors are trained in safe lowering practices of lowering slowly and smoothly.

High level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Fatal	Low	Detailed in-house training & assessment are carried out on activity staff to ensure safe access and practice is used for the activities. Correct use of all equipment. All PPE is checked and recorded monthly. See supporting documents for safety practices. Clear briefing on accessing the edge for abseiling is given and instructors ensure that no one goes out the gate for abseiling without being clipped into a safety rope. Instructors ensure participants are wearing all PPE before partaking in abseiling.
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very likely	Fatal	Medium	All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions. Instructors are issues appropriate PPE waterproof jacket, warm layers, and gloves to use for activity delivery. Towers not used or sessions cancelled in the event of thunder & lightning (activities can resume 30mins after last thunder was heard) or winds above force 9 (50mph)
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Minor	Medium	Maintenance of site, instructor visually checks area upon arrival. General brief and group management is provided by instructors ensure play is safe.
Soft tissue injury	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Instructor aware of group's capabilities. Warm up/warm down as needed.
Physiological effects	Guest/participants	Very unlikely	Major	Low	Instructors aware of groups needs and medical issues. Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participates choices and be sensitive and adapt to participates reactions to the activity they are invited to participate in.
Stress / Panic Attack	Guest/participants	Likely	Major injury or trauma	Low	Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participates



					choices. Instructors will air on the side of caution if participants start to panic or have strong emotional reaction to the activity the instructors will react quickly to ensure the level of stress is brought back down to acceptable level. This should help ensure the activity runs well for all those involved.
Helmet suspension (caught on an element)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Major	Medium	Lowering practices taught that prevent helmets catching e.g. slow careful lowering of participants in the correct position.