

Risk Assessment Activity – Assisted Climbing (Hoist & Pulley system)

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: Filipe Pinto and Hannah Dawson Reviewed by: James Kniffen	Assessed:	Next Review Date
		04/07/19	08/01/20
		07/01/20	08/01/21
		03/01/21	07/01/22

Overview: Assisted climbing sessions is carried out on two purpose built towers supplied and erected by JM Adventure. 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 numbers are minimum of 3 for the group (any size). Minimum 2 instructors to run the Hoist system and minimum of 1 to run the Pulley rope (simultaneously or separate).

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.

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 practice is used for the activities. Correct use of all equipment. All PPE checked and recorded monthly. Instructors ensure participants are wearing all PPE before partaking in the assisted climbing activities. See supporting documents for safety practices.
Low level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Instructors belay and managed the rope systems to ensure a tight rope is maintained while climbing.
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very likely	Fatal	Medium	All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions. 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.
Equipment/rope system failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Fatal	Low	All activity equipment and PPE is checked and recorded monthly. The rope systems are set up and operated by trained staff.
Manual Handling	Instructors	Unlikely	Minor	Low	All staff complete in-house Health and Safety training which includes manual handling and senior staff are to help ensure and correct lifting practices.
Stress / Panic Attack	Guest/participants	Likely	Major or traumatizing	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 prevents helmets catching e.g. slow careful lowering of participants in the correct position.

