

Risk Assessment Activity – Wheelchair Abseiling

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen			Assessed:	Next Review Date
				10/01/2022	09/01/2023
<p>Overview: Wheelchair abseil sessions are carried out on purpose-built tower that has wheelchair access to the top and bottom. A Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (WMCI) qualified Chief Instructor has overall responsibility. All other instructors are RCI or CWI qualified, or in-house trained using NGB recognised techniques. An in-house examination is completed on each staff member by the Technical Advisor to sign of general competency in roped activities and further specific training is given for delivery of Wheelchair abseiling sessions. This process is periodically checked and validated by the independent Technical Advisor. Preferred Staff to client ratio are a minimum of 2 instructors for the group (any size) for the wheelchair abseil. 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
Falling down the ramp	Instructors, carers and participants	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Instructors, carers and participants must be attached to lanyards or rope whenever the final chain barriers are removed for the participant to descend.
Falling backwards down the ramp in wheelchair	Participants	Very Unlikely	Fatal	Low	Participants firmly apply brakes after moving into position. An instructor is always behind the participant holding them steady. Participants are attached to all necessary fall prevention and fall arrest devices and ropes before final chain barriers are taken down. Staff and participants are connected to anchors before barriers are taken down for the abseil.

Tipping over backwards in the chair whilst being lowered down the ramp	Participants	Unlikely	Major	Low	The ropes are carefully tied onto the chair to ensure it can't tip backwards. An instructor abseils down behind the guest and can arrest any potential issues as required.
Fingers caught in equipment (wheels or other metal work)	Participants	Likely	Medium	Medium	Participants are properly briefed on their role during the descent. An instructor abseils down beside the guest to ensure no equipment is near the participant's hands.
Rope Burn	Participants, instructors and carers	Unlikely	Low	Low	All ropes are safely controlled; ensuring no large amount of slack can build up in the system. Participants and carers are properly briefed on the lowering procedure and understand what ropes will be moving and where to safely observe.
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very likely	Fatal	Medium	All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions. Ab Slab Tower will not be 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 injury	Medium	Maintenance of site, instructor visually checks area upon arrival. General brief and group management is provided by instructors to ensure play is safe.

Equipment / rope system failure	Participants and instructors	Unlikely	Major	Low	All equipment is inspected monthly. Staff are trained on set up and delivery and only allowed to run sessions without senior staff once they have been signed off.
Physiological effects	Guest/participants	Very unlikely	Major injury	Low	Instructors aware of groups needs and medical issues. Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participates choices and be sensitive 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.

