

Risk Assessment Activity – Aerial Trek Course

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen	Assessed/ Reviewed: 09/01/2023	Next Review Date
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop	10/01/2024	10/01/2025
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page & Kieran Miles Lead Instructors: Kieren Plant, Ronan Halpenny & Ruth Gibson		

Overview: The at height (11 metres) obstacle course is purpose built between two towers and was supplied and built 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 to Client ratio is 1:12 and a maximum of 1:16 under instruction with a maximum of 16 clients out on the Trek Course at a time.

Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability	Control Measures – Reduces the severity and lowers the probability to acceptable levels
		Severity	
		Risk Category	
Structural Failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	The course built by approved contractors and external annual inspection are carried out. Quarterly structural checks are carried out. Use of the course is limited to one participant on an element at a time and two participants on a platform and max weight of a participant is 100kg. The maximum number of participants on a tower is 15 plus staff on the activity.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Falling objects	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Helmets are worn by anyone in the area when activities are being delivered or maintenance is being done and guests briefed on how to stand if objects fall to protect themselves. All equipment at top of tower secured and emergency procedures in place in case of an accident. Guests advised to remove things from pockets or have them stored safely in zipped pockets.
		Major	
		Medium	

Unauthorized access to Towers	Instructors, staff, guest/participants and general public	Very likely	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.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Rope burns	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Group briefed on correct clothing. Instructor supervises guests contact with rope.
		Minor	
		Low	
High level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Detailed in-house training & assessments are carried out on activity staff to ensure safe access and practice is used for the activities and the correct use of all equipment. All PPE is checked and recorded monthly. Clear briefing on accessing the aerial trek course is given and instructors ensure that no one goes out the gate without being clipped into a safety rope. Instructors ensure participants are wearing all PPE before partaking in abseiling.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Likely	<p>All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions.</p> <p>Instructors are issues appropriate PPE waterproof jacket, warm layers, and gloves to use for activity delivery.</p> <p>Towers not used or sessions cancelled in the event of thunder & lightning (activities can resume 30mins after last thunder sound was heard) and/or winds gusts above 40/45mph (senior staff may reassess and end sessions below this level or may let continue if direction is suitable and hazards are managed).</p> <p>Also, further control measures under the Adverse Weather Risk Assessment are to help with environmental hazards.</p>
		Fatal	
		High	
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	<p>Maintenance of site is done by the activities team and maintenance team.</p> <p>Instructors visually check the area upon arrival. General brief and group management is provided by instructors to ensure activities are run safely and guests should follow the no running safety rule when in the activity area.</p>
		Minor	
		Medium	
Soft tissue injury	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructor aware of group's capabilities and encourage group to warm up/warm down as needed.
		Minor	
		Low	

Physiological effects	Guest/participants	Very unlikely	Instructors are aware of the group's needs and medical issues. Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participants choices and be sensitive and adapt to their reactions to the activity they are invited to participate in.
		Major	
		Medium	
Stress / Panic Attack	Guest/participants	Likely	Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participants 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.
		Major or traumatizing	
		High	
Small injuries – cuts and splinters	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	The course was sanded down when built, and regularly inspected/maintained to prevent cuts and splinters.
		Minor	
		High	
Entrapment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Guests briefed as to any dangers of entrapment. Guests stay on one side of "spiders web" element to avoid entanglement with lanyard. Guests are on a rope adjusted to a height suitable for them to avoid entrapment issues in obstacle elements below them such as hanging ropes etc.
		Major	
		Medium	
Unconscious participant	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Rescue procedures are in place and practice by lead and senior instructors who would carry out the rescue if needed. Rescue equipment is all set and checked on a monthly basis by lead and senior staff and is accessible at the towers in one of the equipment sheds.
		Major	
		Medium	

