

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

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen	Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
		13/01/2023	10/01/2025
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop	10/01/2024	
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page & Kieren Miles Lead Instructors: Kieren Plant, Ronan Halpenny & Ruth Gibson		
<p>Overview: Assisted climbing sessions are 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 a 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 separately).</p>			
Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability Severity Risk Category	Control Measures – Reduces the severity and lowers the probability to acceptable levels
Structural Failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely Fatal Medium	Towers are built by approved contractors and external annual inspections are carried out. Quarterly structural checks are carried out.
Falling objects	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely Major Medium	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.

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 are clearly displayed. Group are given a brief of areas that are prohibited to enter without Centre staff.
		Fatal	
		High	
Rope burns	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Group briefed on correct clothing. Instructor supervises guests contact with rope. Instructors are trained in safe lowering practices of lowering slowly and smoothly.
		Minor	
		Low	
High level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Detailed in-house training & assessment are carried out on activity staff to ensure safe practice is used for the activities and the 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.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Low level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors belay and managed the rope systems to ensure a tight rope is maintained while climbing.
		Major	
		Medium	
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very likely	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 are 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). Also, further control measures under the Adverse Weather Risk Assessment are to help with environmental hazards.
		Fatal	
		High	
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Maintenance of site is done by the activities team and maintenance team. Instructors visually check the area upon arrival. General brief and group management is provided by instructors to ensure activities are run safely.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Soft tissue injury	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructor aware of group's capabilities. 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	
Equipment/rope system failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	All activity equipment and PPE are checked and recorded monthly. The rope systems are set up and operated by trained staff.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Injury due to improper lifting techniques	Instructors	Likely	In-house training and assessment for instructors and put through manual handling training and senior staff monitor and correct lifting techniques when needed.
		Minor	
		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 / trauma	
		High	
Helmet suspension (caught on an element)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Lowering practices taught that prevents helmets catching e.g. slow careful lowering of participants in the correct position.
		Major	
		Medium	