

Risk Assessment Activity – Low Ropes

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen	Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop	11/01/2023	10/01/2025
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page & Kieran Miles Lead Instructors: Kieren Plant, Ronan Halpenny & Ruth Gibson	10/01/2024	

Overview: This takes place within a designated area and is out of bounds unless instructors are present. The courses are inspected on an annual basis by High Times Technical Consultants to ensure all activities are in good working order and any recommended repairs are sorted based on urgency. Monthly safety checks are carried out to ensure the courses are in good working order. Instructors provide supervision of the group during this activity and have been in house trained to lead the sessions. Preferred Staff to Client ratio 1:12 with a maximum of 1:16.

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	
Falling Objects causing injury (forest Low ropes specific)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Areas to be checked over by activities and maintenance team after storms. If strong winds/gusts are forecasted and materialize this will be monitored by senior staff and if deemed unsafe due to branches and trees potentially snapping then the session will be canceled and other activity found to replace it.
		Major	
		High	
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Maintenance of site is done by the activities team and maintenance team and monthly safety check of site and area. The instructor visually checks the area upon arrival. Participants briefed where to slow down/take extra care. Instructors are first aid trained, with a first aid kit readily available. Helmets are worn by participants.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Injury due to incorrect use of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Participants are briefed on hazards as they move around the course. Instructor and group staff supervise, and helmets are worn by participants. Instructors have gone through in-house training to ensure correct use of equipment.
		Major	
		High	
Unauthorized access of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	"No Access" signs are in place on the fenced off area and gates. Participants are briefed about not accessing activities without staff.
		Minor	
		Low	

Injury due equipment & element failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Annual inspection of course by accredited inspector which repairs, or replacement is deemed necessary this will be carried out as soon as possible and element use may be discontinued until repairs or replacements are done. Monthly safety checks of equipment and elements.
		Major	
		Medium	
Injury due misuse of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Participants are briefed on the use of equipment and safety rules given for each element of the course. Instructors manage the group to ensure safety and will get the group leader to help where appropriate.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Improper climbing of course elements (leading to injury)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors are present to ensure participants use the course safely and clear briefs on acceptable use of courses are given. If participants do not listen to instructor's instructions, they will stop the activity and resolve the situation.
		Major	
		Medium	
Low level falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Spotting is provided where/when necessary and helmets are worn. Guidance for coming off the course is given by the instructor and monitoring of participants is carried out to help prevent falling and injury.
		Major	
		High	
Entrapment of fingers	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Ropes are threaded through chains to reduce the risk of entrapment of fingers and participants are warned of areas where entrapment could be an issue. The instructor monitors progress of participants to help prevent entrapment.
		Major	
		Medium	
Splinters	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Wood elements have been sanded to prevent and are checked in the monthly safety checks.
		Minor	
		Low	
Cuts from wires	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Participants are warned about not using or holding on to wires and then monitored throughout the session by the instructor.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Injury from Brambles/Thorns and surrounding foliage	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Activities team to maintain the areas are cut back on a regular basis if foliage is encroaching on activity area.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Swinging (hit by objects)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Participants are instructed of the proper use of elements. Spotting is done as needed and monitoring carried out by the instructor.
		Minor	
		Low	