

Risk Assessment Activity – Zipwire

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen	Assessed/ Reviewed: 13/01/2023	Next Review Date
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop	12/01/2024	09/01/2025
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page & Kieran Miles Lead Instructors: Kieren Plant, Ronan Halpenny & Ruth Gibson		

Overview: Zipwire - Steel cables are tensioned between purpose-built poles and climbing towers. The towers, poles and wires are inspected annually by High Times Technical Consultants. Trained staff do a check of the zipstop mechanisms before the zip wires can be used for the day as recommended by the manufacturing company and the zipstops them self are sent off for annual servicing and inspection. Also, a quarterly inspection of the wires and brake bomb trolleys are carried out by trained staff. All rope techniques, together with equipment and its life inspection procedures are established and overseen by the Chief instructor who has the Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (WMCI). Staff are in-house trained and assessed. Preferred Staff to Client ratio 2:12 and a maximum of 2:16 under supervision (under instruction 1:1 instructor to client for doing the zip line).

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	Zip wire built by approved contractors. External annual inspection carried out. Monthly checks on PPE are carried out and quarterly checks on structural elements. Any issues of damage or faulty equipment are raised immediately with senior staff and appropriate action taken to resolve the issues e.g. repair, suspend use, etc. 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 and guests advised to remove things from pockets or have them stored safely in zipped pockets. All equipment at top of tower secured and emergency procedures in place in case of an accident.
		Major	
		Medium	
Unauthorized access to Towers		Very likely	Tower doors locked and shut when not in use and Zip Wire ropes are pulled up to the top of the tower between sessions to prevent people
		Fatal	

	Instructors, staff, guest/participants and general public	Medium	climbing up them. Access to the Towers is only allowed with a trained staff member. No access signs clearly displayed on fencing around the tower areas.
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 ensure safe practice is used for activity. Participants told not to go through top gates until instructed and this I monitored by instructors. Correct use of all equipment. All PPE checked and recorded monthly. See supporting documents for safety practices.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Low level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors belay participants down upon finishing the zip wire run by taking hold of rope they are attached and walking the participant through the lower. The instructor has hold of the rope while lowering to ensure participant is brought to the ground safely.
		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 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	
	Guest/participants	Very unlikely	

Physiological effects		Major	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.
		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 prevent helmets catching on elements e.g. slow careful lowering of participants in the correct position.
		Major	
		Medium	
Equipment failure (Zipstops system)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Zipstop system check at the beginning of the day when being set up which is done by trained staff. All critical equipment is checked according to the manufacturer's specifications. The Zipstops are sent off annually for their service and maintenance by Entre-prises (UK Eden Works) and service records kept on file. High Times (external inspectors that look at all adventure structures on site) check and raise issues in their reports which are sorted appropriately through replacement and repair. While in use rope / pulley system is checked to make sure it will run smooth and is not caught on the wires or wrapped on anything (check and confirmed by instructors for each participant coming down).
		Fatal	
		High	