



Risk Assessment

Abseiling

Document Control

Issue #	Written By	Approved By	Review Due
1	C. Slater (04.01.2019)	L. Upton (05.01.2019)	05.01.2020
2	M. Davenport (28.06.2021)	M. Davenport (28.06.2021)	28.12.2021
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Description of Severity, Probability and Risk Factors

S = Severity	Description	P = Probability	Description	R.F. = Risk Factor	Description
1 Insignificant	No Injury No financial loss	1 Rare	Conveivable but only in extreme circumstances	1 3	Low Risk. Very little risk of harm to participants
2 Minor	First aid treatment Some financial loss or penalty	2 Unlikely	Hasn't happened yet, but could still happen	4 9	Moderate Risk. Very little risk of harm to participants if control measures are followed.
3 Moderate	Medical treatment required Financial loss or penalty	3 Possible	Could happen or has happened infrequently in the past	12 15	High Risk Some acceptable residual risk to participants. Enhanced control measures must be followed.
4 Major	Medical treatment in hospital required Significant financial loss or penalty	4 Likely	Could easily happen or has happened more frequently in the past	16 25	Catastrophic Risk Unacceptable level of risk
5 Catastrophic	Death Massive financial loss or penalty	5 Almost Certain	Often occurs		

Hazard	Involved	Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk	Acceptable
Fall from Tower	Unauthorised Users	P = 3 - POSSIBLE S = 4 - MAJOR R.F. = 12 - HIGH	<p>The Tower area is fenced off and the gate is locked.</p> <p>The gate is only opened by Authorised Instructors.</p> <p>The number of participants at the top of the tower to be controlled - participants to be advised to remain in the harnessing area until called by the instructors running the session to climb the stairs.</p> <p>All persons (instructors and participants) at the top of the tower are to be connected to either a safety rope or tape before ducking under the safety rail to enter the working platform area. If using a safety rope rather than a tape, the safety rope shall be under the direct control of an instructor or locked off.</p>	P = 1 - RARE S = 4 - MAJOR R.F. = 4 - MODERATE	YES
Lack of Understanding	All Users	P = 3 - POSSIBLE S = 4 - MAJOR R.F. = 12 - HIGH	<p>A safety briefing is given to all participants prior to the start of the session. Other instructors helping with the session are to be vigilant to participants either not paying attention or not understanding the briefing being given and shall offer additional assistance or instruction where necessary.</p> <p>Any participant in doubt about the risk involved is advised not to continue.</p>	P = 1 - RARE S = 2 - MINOR R.F. = 2 - LOW	YES
Activity Equipment Failure	All Users	P = 2 - UNLIKELY S = 4 - MAJOR R.F. = 8 - MODERATE	<p>All equipment is inspected for wear and/or damage before each session, in accordance with manufacturers guidance.</p> <p>All equipment is selected and issued according to the size of the users, is correctly fitted and checked before ascending the tower.</p> <p>All equipment is managed in line with manufacturers guidance for length of use, and is retired before expiry unless previously done by wear/damage.</p> <p>Where labels and tags in non-structurally relevant places are available, purchase dates for equipment shall be written to help keep track of equipment life cycle.</p> <p>Equipment replacement life cycle shall be in accordance with the manufacturers guidelines. This replacement life cycle shall be documented in the Planned Maintenance System.</p> <p>Structural, load bearing equipment shall be tested annually, and the results documented in the Planned Maintenance System.</p>	P = 1 - RARE S = 4 - MAJOR R.F. = 4 - MODERATE	YES
Falling Objects	All Users	P = 2 - UNLIKELY S = 3 - MODERATE R.F. = 6 - MODERATE	<p>All high level equipment to be secured to either the tower or the harness of an instructor.</p> <p>Anybody on the decking or concrete footprint must wear a helmet (whether they intend to participate in the activity or not), at any time while there are people and/or equipment at the top of the tower.</p> <p>All users are advised to be aware of overhead activity and are advised of the safety procedures in place during the routine safety briefing at the start of the session.</p>	P = 1 - RARE S = 3 - MODERATE R.F. = 3 - LOW	YES
Fall or Trip on Stairs	All Users	P = 2 - UNLIKELY	All users are instructed to walk up the staircase carefully holding the side rail and not to overtake or run.	P = 1 - RARE	YES

		S = 3 - MODERATE R.F. = 6 - MODERATE	The supervising instructors shall check the stairs before each session and report any problems, eg algae or corrosion, to the site services team who will take appropriate action.	S = 3 - MODERATE R.F. = 3 - LOW	
Fall whilst descending	All Users	P = 2 - UNLIKELY S = 3 - MODERATE R.F. = 6 - MODERATE	All users are secured to a safety rope, controlled by an instructor for the entire duration of the descent, in addition to their own abseiling rope. There is also a trained instructor at the foot of the tower, who will observe and provide additional support if required.	P = 1 - RARE S = 3 - MODERATE R.F. = 3 - LOW	YES