

## Risk Assessment – Tree Climb

Date: September 2024

Potential Hazard	Who is at Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Preventative Measures
Slips, trips & falls	Participants, guests, staff	3	1	3 LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activity area to be monitored by centre with regular maintenance to keep area clear and safe</li> <li>- Activity assessed by group leader prior to taking part to be suitable for the age of group etc</li> <li>- Safety briefing to be given to participants</li> <li>- Leaders must be vigilant and maintain good group control (inappropriate behaviour must not be tolerated and participants to be removed from activity)</li> <li>- Appropriate footwear to be worn which is securely attached to the feet &amp; covers toes (wellies, flip-flops etc not permitted)</li> <li>- Group to take extra care when stepping around equipment with spare ropes to be tied off correctly &amp; tidied away when not in use</li> </ul>
Being hit by falling objects	Participants, Staff, Guests	2	1	2 LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helmets must be worn correctly as per the manufacturer's guidelines by all persons within the designated area. This area will be set out by instructors at start of a session</li> <li>- Activity to be suspended during high winds</li> <li>- Instructor to check participants helmets before starting activity</li> <li>- Participants to be briefed on safety including removal of helmets</li> <li>- Behaviour monitored &amp; managed appropriately, vigilance of all staff during activity (groups should have a leader with them at all times)</li> <li>- Participants must have empty pockets before ascending</li> <li>- Participants waiting to climb should wait in clearly marked designated area set out by the instructor until their turn</li> </ul>
Adverse Weather – Lightning & high winds	Participants, Staff, Guests	2	4	8 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If lightning occurs suddenly then the group should vacate the area immediately</li> <li>- During high winds the activity will be cancelled to prevent injury from falling branches.</li> </ul>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After heavy rain if ground is too muddy for young people to safely stand and use Belay equipment session to be called off</li> </ul>
Incorrect Belay set up	Participants, Staff	1	4	4 <b>LOW</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All instructors to either have SPA, RCI or higher <b>or</b> have in house training and be signed off by the MIA qualified technical advisor</li> <li>- Instructor must read and sign the SOP at the start of each season.</li> <li>- Instructor must check Belay set up before use &amp; again before each participant – faulty equipment to be labelled and put in the isolation box in the shed and then checked by someone else</li> </ul>
Entrapment	Participants	2	2	4 <b>LOW</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief and check participants have tucked away and secured the loose section of the harness in the plastic clip</li> <li>- Brief and check participants have tucked away and secured any loose or baggy clothing</li> <li>- Brief and check participants have removed any large or dangly jewellery</li> <li>- Brief and check participants have tied back / secured long hair</li> <li>- The activity instructor must check themselves for the above as well</li> </ul>
Unsecure attachment to safety rope or incorrectly fitted harness	Participants	1	4	4 <b>LOW</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sit harnesses are to be correctly fitted (waist loop tight above the hips &amp; leg loops tight).</li> <li>- Check the active participants PPE &amp; roped attachments twice; when attaching the safety rope and before the climber is allowed to leave the ground.</li> </ul>
Impact with ground or other obstacles	Participants	2	2	4 <b>LOW</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rope to be snug to the climber whilst they ascend and the instructor to Belay or be within touching distance of both ropes while participant Belay's.</li> <li>- The Belayers must always hold the dead rope as a break to help with descent</li> <li>- Lower participant at an appropriately slow pace making sure they don't hit the ladder on the way down</li> </ul>

Unauthorised access	Participants, Staff, Guests	1	4	4 <b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to roped activity structures must be secured against casual or unauthorised access when not in use for extended periods. Gate to activity area locked when access is not required</li> <li>- On arrival group informed of areas that are out of bounds</li> </ul>
Existing medical condition	Participants	2	3	6 <b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leaders to ensure the appropriate health &amp; parental consent forms are used.</li> <li>- Ensure necessary medication available if needed.</li> <li>- Ensure all leaders are aware of the OAC's accident/emergency procedures.</li> <li>- Group to have access to a mobile phone.</li> </ul>
Equipment failure	Participants	1	5	5 <b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All equipment to be routinely checked by centre staff, with logbooks kept up to date in the office</li> <li>- Instructors to complete a visual pre-session inspection before all sessions, including all equipment being used as well as the site (including tree, wires, ladder, etc.)</li> <li>- Instructors should report any equipment that they have concerns with immediately to the duty manager, and isolate the equipment (session should not take place unless there is a suitable replacement piece of equipment)</li> </ul>

Where an activity specifies that a helmet must be worn, every effort must be made to get participants to wear one. However, this may present difficulties for those who wear a turban or other similar head covering. Participants in this activity who are wearing a full 'pagri' turban are exempt from wearing a helmet, as the turban should control sufficiently the risks that the helmet would otherwise guard against. This exemption does not apply to participants who are wearing a 'patka' or lighter cloth head covering, with or without a top-knot. These individuals must wear a helmet, and provision should be made for a private area where these participants can remove or adjust their patka in order to fit the helmet. Where a turban is worn in place of a helmet, special care must be taken to ensure that there is no risk of any loose cloth getting entangled in equipment or apparatus

Signed: .....

On behalf of: .....

Date: .....

Likelihood of Occurrence	Severity of Outcome				
	1 Negligible	2 Slight	3 Moderate	4 Severe	5 Very Severe
1 Very Unlikely	LOW (1)	LOW (2)	LOW (3)	LOW (4)	LOW (5)
2 Unlikely	LOW (2)	LOW (4)	LOW (6)	MEDIUM (8)	MEDIUM (10)
3 Possible	LOW (3)	LOW (6)	MEDIUM (9)	HIGH (12)	HIGH (15)
4 Probable	LOW (4)	MEDIUM (8)	HIGH (12)	HIGH (16)	HIGH (20)
5 Very Likely	LOW (5)	MEDIUM (10)	HIGH (15)	HIGH (20)	HIGH (25)

**Likelihood of occurrence X Severity of outcome = Risk Rating**

Example:

Likelihood (possible 3) X Severity (Moderate 3) = Risk Rating (Medium 9)