

Activity Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Low ropes Hertfordshire Scout Activity Centres- Phasels Wood Activity Centre	Date of risk assessment	October 2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Katy Pearce EM HCSC Reviewed by: Doug Stack ACM HCSC
		Date of next review	October 2025		

Hazard- what could go wrong?	Who is at risk?	Assessment of risk	Control measures in place	Remaining risk using control measures
General injury from falling off the course	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should have a spotting person behind them during traversing activities to break the impact of a fall. Spotters must stay alert with good foot and hand positioning. Supervising adult must ensure shoes are suitable and tied correctly, pockets emptied and objects have been removed i.e. scarfs and necklaces. Supervising adult must ensure that participants are using the elements correctly and as designed for. 	Low
Ankle injury when falling or stepping down	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should have a spotting person behind them during traversing activities to break the impact of a fall. Spotters must stay alert with good foot and hand positioning. Participants must be instructed to climb down off the elements rather than jump off. 	Low
Entrapment	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervising adult must ensure shoes are suitable and tied correctly, pockets emptied and objects have been removed i.e. scarfs and necklaces. 	Low
Head injury from impact with element or floor	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should have a spotting person behind them during traversing activities to break the impact of a fall. Spotters must stay alert with good foot and hand positioning. Participants must wear a correctly fitted helmet. 	Low
Weather	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre Management Team/Lead Instructors must check weather at start of day and monitor throughout. Sessions must be stopped if wind speeds exceed 24mph, dependant on location. Sessions must be stopped if course becomes too slippery from the rain/environment. Sessions must be stopped immediately in thunder and lightning, and wait for 30 minutes after end of storm, before recommencing. 	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions to be cancelled in extreme hot or cold temperatures. 	
Uncontrolled groups of young people	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep all young people involved sitting down while not participating. Groups must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Group leader is responsible for managing the groups behaviour stated in the booking terms and conditions. 	Low
Self-led sessions/ equipment	Participants, Leaders	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leader is responsible to ensure that those running the activity Self-led must have completed and signed a Self-Led Activity Registration Form for the activity. Supervising adult must be shown the activity area/activity equipment by centre staff before commencing the activity or been provided an alternative method. An additional competent adult should be present to supervise individuals that are not engaged on the activity. 	Low
Clients with additional abilities/pre-existing health issues	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leader must provide information about significant medical requirements and additional needs during the booking process. Instructors should discuss any issues with group leaders before the session is started. Lead instructors/management should review information and make any specific adaptations, determined with an individual risk assessment. Group leader is responsible for having access to essential medication i.e. inhalers. Participants with a history of injuries should be warned about the physical nature of taking part in this activity and have read the activity information before starting. 	Low
Novice participants	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of 1 supervising adult plus 1 competent adult per 15 participants. Safety briefing given at start of session to identify specific hazards and safety rules to follow and reinforced throughout. 	Low
Failure of equipment	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly equipment checks are carried out. Routine visual inspections completed and signed off at the start of the day and before each session by the activities team. If the activity equipment has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped immediately until repairs are completed, safety checks carried out and verified so activity can recommence. This must be recorded appropriately. 	Low

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Poorly maintained activity area	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly activity area checks are carried out. • Routine visual inspections completed and signed off at the start of the day and before each session by the activities team. • If the activity area has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped immediately until repairs are completed, safety checks carried out and verified so activity can recommence. This must be recorded appropriately. 	Low
General Injury	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups are responsible for their own first aid. Groups must have someone adequately trained and have a suitable first aid kit. • Additional first aid kit and defibrillator are available at reception/activity and key staff on duty to offer further support if required. 	Low