

Risk Assessment Activity – Adverse Weather

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen		Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
			03/01/2023 06/01/2025 12/12/2025	12/12/2026
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop	Dec 2025		
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page, Steph McMenemy Kieren Plant and Ronan Halpenny Lead Instructors: Rebecca Arms			
Overview: There are a number of adverse weather issues we have had to face over the last couple of years which seem to be more frequent, so flexibility to our programmes is key to navigate the more extreme weather that we are getting. Due to the weather being outside of our control and a good number of our clients booking well in advance, the sessions will be adapted, changed, or even cancelled due to weather related issue. Our T&C for weather state: <i>“In the event of activities being cancelled by the centre because of adverse weather or other causes beyond the control of the centre alternatives may be offered but are subject to availability and other constraints. No refund can be made in the event of an activity session or sessions being cancelled because of adverse weather or other conditions beyond the control of the centre and alternatives declined by the Hirer.”</i>				
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		
Hypothermia – Cold Exposure (snow, cold water, wind and rain)	Instructors, guest/participants	Likely (in colder periods of the year)	Kit list is sent out to group which ensure group members bring adequate clothing and use it out on session when needed. Instructors have the right PPE (waterproofs, warm layers, gloves, and hats) so they can perform their role and duty of care to participants in cold conditions. Sessions will be cut short if the group are struggling with the elements and retreat indoors to warm up.	
		Major		

		High	Instructors are first aid trained and will be ready to give treatment and prevent more severe hypothermia.
Heat Exhaustion (Extreme Heat Exposure)	Instructors, guest/participants	Likely (in summer period)	Sessions to be adapted to have regular breaks for drinking and cooling down. Spraying down stations to be at water points. Instructors are to seek out shade points for participants waiting on activities. Programme to be adapted as much as possible for the indoor sessions to be done during the hottest part of the day or session times changed to prevent being out during the hottest part of the day. Session can be cut short to help mitigate the heat.
		Major	
		High	
Strong Winds (hard impact by falling objects and being blown into activity elements)	Instructors, guest/participants	Likely	Roped and activities under tree cover to be stopped if gusts reach 40/45mph and possibly before if senior staff deem it necessary. Large elements on courses such as on High Ropes and Trek Course to be secured and groups to be managed on courses to prevent participants being pushed/blown into course element and hurting themselves via hard impact. Parts of courses may be chosen to not be used, and belay techniques will be adapted to prevent the above.
		Major	
		High	
Thunder and Lightning	Instructors, guest/participants	Likely	Weather is checked daily, and arrangements are made in the case that Thunder and Lightning are in the forecast – sessions that can be changed or moved inside will be if the thunderstorm looks to be materialising. All activities at height and on water will be suspended if thunder starts to be heard by staff and will not resume until there has been 30mins since the last thunder sound was heard.
		Major	
		High	
Snow, Frost and freezing temperatures (slip on ice)	Instructors other centre staff, guest/participants public	Likely (in the winter)	Grit to be spread on all used paths by maintenance and activities team. Towers to be swept clear of snow to help prevent ice build-up.
		Minor	
		Medium	