

Risk Assessment Activity – Aerial Trek Course

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen		Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
			09/01/2023 07/01/2025 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 & Ronan Halpenny Lead Instructors: Rebecca Arms			
Overview: The at height (11 metres) obstacle course is purpose built between two towers and was supplied and built by JM Adventure. An annual inspection is carried by High Times Technical Consultants. Regular bimonthly inspection checks are also carried out on equipment by activities staff as well as a quarterly structural check. A qualified Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (WMCI) Chief Instructor has overall responsibility. All other instructors are RCI or CWI qualified, or in-house trained using NGB recognised techniques. An examination to check competency of staff is completed on each staff member by the external and independent Technical Advisor. This process is periodically checked and validated by the Technical Advisor and senior staff members do continual monitoring throughout the year. Preferred Staff to Client ratio is 1:12 and a maximum of 1:16 under instruction with a maximum of 14 clients out on the Trek Course at a time. All instructors are first aid trained and emergency procedures are in place in case of a major accident.				
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	The course is built by approved contractors, and external annual inspections are carried out. Quarterly structural checks are carried out. Use of the course is limited to one participant on an element at a time and two participants on a platform and max weight of a participant is 100kg. The maximum number of participants on a tower is 15 plus staff on the activity.	
		Fatal		
		Medium		
Falling objects		Unlikely		

	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Major	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. All equipment at top of tower secured and emergency procedures in place in case of an accident. Guests advised to remove things from pockets or have them stored safely in zipped pockets.
		Medium	
Unauthorized access to Towers	Instructors, staff, guest/participants and general public	Very likely	Tower doors locked and shut when not in use. Only access to towers is via a trained member of staff. No access signs clearly displayed.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Rope burns	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Groups are briefed on correct clothing. Instructor supervises guests contact with rope.
		Minor	
		Low	
High level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Detailed in-house training & assessments are carried out on activity staff to ensure safe access and practice is used for the activities and the correct use of all equipment. All PPE is checked and recorded bimonthly, and Instructors ensure participants are wearing all PPE before partaking in Trek Course. Clear briefing on accessing the aerial trek course is given and instructors ensure that no one goes out the gate without being clipped into a safety rope and instructors encourage group leaders to help manage the gate and if participants unable to follow instructions, then the activity will be stopped until the instructor deems it safe to continue.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions. Instructors are issued 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		Likely	

	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Minor	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 and guests should follow the no running safety rule when in the activity area.
		Medium	
Soft tissue injury	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructor aware of each groups capabilities and encourage the group to warm up as needed.
		Minor	
		Low	
Physiological effects	Guest/participants	Very unlikely	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.
		Major	
		Medium	
Stress / Panic Attack	Guest/participants	Likely	Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participants choices. Instructors will err 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 or traumatizing	
		High	
Small injuries – cuts and splinters	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	The course was sanded down when built, and regularly inspected/maintained to prevent cuts and splinters.
		Minor	
		High	
Entrapment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Guests briefed as to any dangers of entrapment. Guests stay on one side of "spiders web" element to avoid entanglement with lanyard. Guests are on a rope adjusted to a height suitable for them to avoid entrapment issues in obstacle elements below them such as hanging ropes etc.
		Major	
		Medium	
Unconscious participant	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Rescue procedures are in place and practiced by lead and senior instructors who would carry out the rescue if needed. Rescue equipment is all set and checked on a bimonthly basis by lead and senior staff and is accessible at the towers in one of the equipment sheds.
		Major	
		Medium	