

Risk Assessment Activity – Low Ropes

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen		Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
			11/01/2023 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: This takes place within a designated area and is out of bounds unless instructors are present. The courses are inspected on an annual basis by High Times Technical Consultants to ensure all activities are in good working order and any recommended repairs are sorted based on urgency. Bimonthly safety checks are carried out to ensure the courses are in good working order. Instructors provide supervision of the group during this activity and have been in-house trained to lead the sessions. Preferred Staff to Client ratio 1:12 with a maximum of 1:16. 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		
Falling Objects causing injury (forest Low ropes specific)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Areas to be checked over by activities and maintenance team after storms. If strong winds/gusts are forecasted and materialise this will be monitored by senior staff and if deemed unsafe due to branches and trees potentially snapping, then the session will be cancelled, and other activity found to replace it if possible.	
		Major		
		Medium		
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Maintenance of site is done by the activities team and maintenance team and bimonthly safety check of site and area. The instructor visually checks the area upon arrival. Participants briefed where to slow down/take extra care. Instructors are first aid trained, with a first aid kit readily available. Helmets are worn by participants.	
		Minor		
		Medium		
Injury due to incorrect use of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Participants are briefed on hazards as they move around the course. Instructor and group leader supervise, and helmets are worn by participants. Instructors have gone through in-house training to ensure correct use of equipment.	
		Major		
		High		
		Unlikely		

Unauthorised access of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Minor	“No Access” signs are in place on the fenced off areas and gates. Participants are briefed about not accessing activities without staff.
		Low	
Injury due to equipment & element failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Annual inspection of course done by accredited inspector and any repairs or replacement that is deemed necessary will carried out as soon as possible and element use may be discontinued until repairs or replacements are done depending upon the recommendations of the inspector. Bimonthly safety checks of equipment and elements are carried out.
		Major	
		Medium	
Injury due misuse of equipment	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Participants are briefed on the use of equipment and safety rules given for each element of the course. Instructors manage the group to ensure safety and will get the group leader to help where appropriate.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Improper climbing of course elements (leading to injury)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors are present to ensure participants use the course safely and clear briefs on acceptable use of courses are given. If participants do not listen to instructor’s instructions, they will stop the activity, and the situation will be resolved before continuing.
		Major	
		Medium	
Low level falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Spotting is provided where/when necessary and helmets are worn. Guidance for coming off the course is given by the instructor and monitoring of participants is carried out to help prevent falling and injury.
		Major	
		High	
Entrapment of fingers	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Ropes are threaded through chains to reduce the risk of entrapment of fingers and participants are warned of areas where entrapment could be an issue. The instructor monitors progress of participants to help prevent entrapment and intervenes where necessary.
		Major	
		Medium	
Splinters	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Wood elements have been sanded to prevent splinters and are checked in the bimonthly safety checks.
		Minor	
		Low	
Cuts from wires	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Participants are warned about not using or holding on to wires and then monitored throughout the session by the instructor.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Injury from Brambles/Thorns and surrounding foliage	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Activities team to maintain the areas on regular basis by cutting back foliage.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Swinging (hit by objects)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Participants are instructed of the proper use of elements. Spotting is done as needed and monitoring carried out by the instructor.
		Minor	
		Low	