

Risk Assessment Activity – Raft Building (On-Site)

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen		Assessed/ Reviewed:	Next Review Date
			11/01/2023 08/01/2025 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: Rafting is carried out on our onsite pond. Sessions are led by two instructors, one of whom must hold either a National Pool Lifeguard qualification or a nationally recognised water-based rescue certificate, for example PSRT (Paddle Safety Rescue training) qualification. All instructors will have completed in-house training. A throw line, knife and first aid kit present at all times and easily accessible for the instructors. Preferred Staff to Client ratio 2:12 with a maximum of 2:16. Annual water tests undertaken to ensure water is safe to use. 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		
Water (drowning)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	All participants must wear buoyancy aids and a helmet for this activity, which are checked by trained staff. The pond area is fenced off and has “no access” and “danger deep water” signs clearly displayed on the fencing. Only trained staff can use the pond and deliver water-based activities. Instructors have been trained in rescue procedures and at least one instructor on the session has their PSRT/Lifeguard qualification. A throwline is set up near the edge of the pond accessible for staff to use and a knife is stored and accessible in instructor PFD.	
		Fatal		
		High		
Slips & trips	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Areas are checked bimonthly and a visually check is done by instructors upon arrival for delivery on the day. Participants are briefed on hazards.	
		Minor		
		Medium		
Equipment – knocks and bumps	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Helmets worn by participants and equipment carried in a safe manner as instructed by staff. The instructors will monitor and correct participants’ misuse of equipment to reduce the risk of knocks and bumps.	
		Minor		
		Medium		

Entrapment in ropes	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Only logs can be tied together, rescue kit is at hand for instructors to use. The instructor will have a knife in the pocket of their PFD ready to get out to cut ropes and the throw line is within easy access near the water's edge.
		Major	
		Medium	
Weil's Disease	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Water samples are to be sent off in spring and summer and autumn period to ensure water is safe. Participants are briefed not to swallow water.
		Major	
		Medium	
Algal bloom	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Staff to monitor water and report to senior staff if algae is spotted. If serious bloom has taken place water will be sent off to be tested and the raft building sessions closed until results have come back and are clear. The water fountain will be put on for the spring, summer and autumn period to circulate the water and help prevent algal bloom.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Injury due improper lifting techniques	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	All staff complete in-house Health and Safety training which includes manual handling. Instructors trained on how to use the equipment and ensure participants correctly handle logs and barrels for the duration of the session.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Misuse of safety equipment (knife in rescue kit)	Guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Instructors ensure participants do not mess with safety/rescue kit and the knife is on the instructor's person (in pocket of instructor PFD).
		Major	
		Medium	
Wound infection	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Instructors to brief the participants that they are not to go into the water if they have any open wounds. Instructors to stop anyone who tries to go into the water if a wound is seen.
		Major	
		High	