

Valley Adventure Centre – Climbing Tower Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for: Climbing Tower	Assessor(s): Alex Dodds	Date: 06/01/2024
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Overview of activity/ location/ equipment/ conditions assessed:	The Climbing Tower is an artificial tower made of wood panels with screw on climbing holds up to height of 12m; this allows peer belaying and the use of Auto-belays for top and bottom rope activities. There are no more than 4 people at height at any time on the climbing tower.
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Generic or specific assessment:		Specific		
Serial	Hazard(s) identified	Persons affected	Existing Controls	Additional Controls
1	Induction/ Safety Brief	All staff and public	All staff and public must attend a safety brief prior to using the climbing tower area.	A Safety Brief is attached
2	Slips, trips, falls and personal injury	All staff and public	Where possible, obstacles shall be removed. At the time of booking participants are informed about wearing suitable clothing and footwear for the session.	
3	Young persons and vulnerable adults	All staff and public	<p>Ensure that young persons and vulnerable adults receive an induction talk and safety brief. It is vitally important that they not only listen to, but also fully understand, the safety instructions and rules.</p> <p>Ensure that young persons and vulnerable adults do not enter sessions where there are older or more experienced participants.</p> <p>No person will be allowed to take part in activities unless they can demonstrate that they have fully understood the safety rules. Under 16's require a 'Consent Form' signed by a parent or guardian or have a</p>	Young persons and vulnerable adults will tend to forget the safety rules when they are excited. It is essential to repeat the rules at frequent intervals.

			<p>parent/guardian in attendance.</p> <p>The minimum age for this activity is 7 years old. Occasionally 6 year olds may be permitted to use the course (i.e. same school year 7th birthday parties) but they must be at least 120cm in height.</p> <p>All other participants must read an Activity Disclaimer form, and the lead person must sign for their group.</p>	
4	Injury due to problems with health and/ or fitness	All staff and public	<p>Climbing activities can be physically and emotionally challenging.</p> <p>All participants should be fit enough to undertake the activity and operate within their personal limits.</p> <p>Participants are advised to seek professional assistance if in doubt about the fitness level required for the activity.</p> <p>Participants with current injuries or undergoing medical treatment are discouraged from participating.</p>	
5	First aid and medical requirements	All staff and public	<p>Supervising staff must have a valid first aid award, ERCA award or received specific training as an Appointed Person.</p> <p>First aid kits are available in the Tower and the Cabin. An accident reporting record is kept by the Centre Manager.</p> <p>Participants with additional medical requirements such as asthma, inhalers, diabetes etc should make themselves</p>	<p>It may be impractical for participants to carry personal medications during activity. All personal medications should be immediately available or carried by an instructor. Instructors should be informed by participants how to administer medications in an emergency.</p> <p>The activity is stopped if personal medications are required.</p>

			known to supervising staff so that appropriate measures may be taken to ensure the availability of personal medications if required.	
6	Alcohol and drug misuse	All staff and public	All staff and public are particularly at risk when exposed to alcohol and/or drug misuse. Members of the public who appear to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will be asked to leave the session immediately, possibly the site.	This is included in the safety brief. ALCOHOL, DRUG MISUSE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DO NOT MIX.
7	Fire	All staff and public	The site is 'No Smoking'. Naked flames are not allowed on-site unless as part of the 'Bushcraft' sessions at a designated fire pit. Staff are inducted and trained to respond in the event of a fire. Contact the emergency services by calling 999 or 112 from the cabin or by mobile phone. There is a mobile reception for most networks on-site.	In the event of a Fire or Emergency all users will be escorted by an instructor to the Emergency Assembly Area which is located next to the water pumping station at the main gate entrance to the centre.
8	Staff and Public entering the activity area during a session	All staff and public	Ensure any gates are closed. Ensure any safety/warning signs are in place. The activity is highly visible and it is unlikely that public will enter sessions when being run. Public entering the tower climbing area would politely be asked to move back onto the main track.	
9	Injury due to	All staff and	All staff and public are to wear suitable and	A dynamic risk assessment is made

	ground and/ or weather conditions	public	<p>supportive footwear for use during outdoor activities.</p> <p>The Climbing Wall and Tower are inspected prior to and during activity. The activity may go ahead in most conditions.</p> <p>Rain and high winds above continuous Force 6, gusts to Force 7 can stop the activity. Lightning storms will stop ALL activities.</p> <p>Participants are made aware of the implications when conditions are icy, windy or wet and asked to move slower and with more care.</p>	<p>before and during sessions. Participants are briefed on ground conditions as required. The activity can be adjusted as conditions dictate.</p> <p>The activity will be stopped if necessary. Rain showers may temporarily stop the activity.</p>
10	Injury from inadequate personal clothing and/ or footwear	All staff and public	Participants are advised to remove rings and jewellery and to wear sturdy footwear.	
11	Injury from falling, static and mobile equipment	All staff and public	<p>The activity equipment is to be inspected and maintained. Individual holds and elements are to be in good condition and inspected for splinters, loosening, etc.</p> <p>Participants trained in the use of Rig belay techniques and all ropes are 'tailed' by an instructor. Belayers are attached to ground anchors and lowers are made under Instructors control only.</p> <p>There should never be any slack in the ropes, as this would cause shock loading.</p> <p>Advanced Instructors can supervise up to 4 belayers depending on experience;</p>	<p>The last load-test of ground anchors was 2008. The ground anchors were rated to 26KN.</p> <p>As the testing is not current, ALL belayers MUST be attached directly to the belay system. The use of ground anchors provides additional safety but should not be solely relied upon. They also serve to keep the belayers and assistants in the correct place and make participants easier to manage.</p>

			Instructors up to 2 belayers and Assistant Instructors 1 belayer. There will normally be two instructors supervising 2 belayers each.	
12	Issue of personal PPE equipment	All staff and public	Ensure all PPE equipment is clean, fits properly and conforms to safety regulations. NEVER issue any worn or defective equipment. Stress the importance of ' looking after equipment '. Adjust harnesses to correct fit. Helmets are NOT to be worn by climbers due to the risk of catching on holds being greater than the risk of falling objects from above.	The Centre Manager is responsible for all safety checks of PPE.
13	Injury to head, face and eyes	All staff and public	Be aware of ropes and other participants that are next to you. Belayers may wear helmets if they wish, helmets are NOT to be worn by climbers.	
14	Injury through damaged or faulty equipment	All staff and public	All activity equipment is inspected and fitted by instructors. Damaged or faulty equipment is withdrawn and replaced.	The Centre Manager inspects all damaged or faulty equipment for serviceability.
15	Effect on equipment due to poor storage conditions	All staff and public	Climbing equipment is to be stored in a cool dry environment.	
16	Misuse of equipment	All staff and public	The climbing equipment is to be stored correctly and not used other than on authorised training or sessions.	

Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:	Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:
Aug 12	N/A	Wilkes	Jan 2022	Review	Girdwood
Apr 13	3, 11	Wilkes	Jan 2023	Review	Girdwood
Jun 13	Assessor(s)	Corbett			
Jun 14	1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16	Corbett			
August 15	3, 5, 9, 11	Corbett			
May 2016	General Review & 9	Robinson			
May 2017	12,14	Wade			
April 2018	12,14	Colin			
Feb 2019	Review	Colin			
Jan 2020	11,12,13	Colin			
Jan 2021	Review	Girdwood			