



Valley Adventure Center – Canadian Canoes – Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for: Canadian Canoes	Assessor(s): Alex Dodds	Date: 02/01/2025
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Canoe sessions are designed as an activity for groups. The locations used is St Brelades Bay. Ratio of 12:1 as per British Canoe Standards. Minimum Qualification to be British Canoe Paddle Sports Instructor or equivalent experience and training. Assistant Instructors must be signed off by a senior member of staff.				
Potential Hazard	Whom may be harmed	Control Measure	Likelihood L /M/H	Further Control Measure/Notes
Water /Drowning	Clients and Staff	-Buoyancy aids to be worn at all times & Helmets with kids -Swell, wind and tide conditions constantly monitored - All instructors to be NGB qualified / experienced	Med	Instructors to be aware of ferry swell and move participants away from impact zone
Participants	Clients and Staff	-Buoyancy aids and head protection worn by all participants. - Demonstration of correct techniques to be delivered by group leader. Second member of staff to assist.	Low	Confirm that all in the group can swim min 50 metres Staff to be in the position of most effectiveness depending upon the conditions.
Lifting and launching	Clients and Staff	- Rafted Canoes are heavy and need the whole team to lift/slide into & out of the water. -Leader or assistant must demonstrate correct techniques.	Low	Staff to be positioned at the front and rear of the group when moving the bell boat.
Equipment	Clients and Staff	-Ensure correct fitting of head protection, buoyancy aids and wetsuits when used -The condition of all equipment to be assessed prior to use, suspect items removed from service and reported to Operations Manager.	Low	
General	Clients and Staff.	-Continual appraisal of participants, equipment and environmental conditions throughout the activity using dynamic risk assessment.	Low	



Weather Strong winds,swell, lightning and Adverse Weather Conditions	Clients and Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructors will continually monitor wind and weather conditions and cease tours/session if conditions deteriorate. -Leader must check tide, weather and wind forecast prior to departure -If instructors are unsure of weather they must communicate with operations manager. -Beach Lead Instructor must constantly monitor in coming weather and make decisions promptly. 	Low	
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Hypothermia	Clients and Staff	Staff and clients to wear the correct size wetsuits and footwear if required. Clients made aware of the dangers of hypothermia. Buddy system be implemented if conditions dictate.	Low/Med	Staff to carry emergency shelters and wind proof jacket for clients.
Slips and trips	Clients and Staff	Verbel warning about uneven surfaces, slippery surfaces and hazards on the beach. Ensure all clients are wearing appropriate footwear when needed.	Low/Med	First aid trauma bags should be within easy reach of trained staff
Heatstroke and heat Exhaustion	Clients and Staff	Staff to monitor the group and ensure of adequate water intake. Clients made aware of the dangers.	Medium	Staff to be aware of various shade options.
Sunburn	Clients and Staff	Apply high factors prior to start of session and check ever couple of hours if UV rating is High. Make everyone aware of the dangers of sunburn in session briefing.	Medium	Make sure the van has plenty of sunscreen for clients who failto bring there own.