



GENERIC RISK ASSESMENT FOR BEAMISH HALL ROPES COURSE CENTRE

ROPES CENTRE RISK ASSESSMENT – ALL AREAS

DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 05/01/2010

HAZARD	WHO MAY BE AFFECTED	LIKELIHOOD TO HAPPEN	CONSEQUENCE	CONTROL MEASURE
INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES AND BEHAVIOUR				
Behaviour	Staff, participants, onlookers	M	L	-Any behaviour problems that jeopardise the safety of the ongoing activities should be dealt with by staff -Stop the activity -If necessary remove the culprit(s) from the activity and if necessary return them to guardian.
Drugs and Alcohol	Staff, participants, onlookers	L	H	-Beamish Hall does not allow consumption of drugs, alcohol or any other intoxicating substances on the premises (Company Policy). -If a participant is suspected to be

				intoxicated he/she will not be allowed to take part in any activities.
TREES				
Tree damage, Loose Branches	Staff, participants, onlookers	M	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prior to course construction all trees that are part of the ropes course have been inspected and deemed suitable to use -All trees are inspected annually by an arboricultural expert -Visual checks are performed daily -Visual checks followed by further inspections if necessary after extreme weather conditions (storms, high winds, lightening etc)
WEATHER				
General	Staff, participants	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff to check weather forecast before starting activities -Ensure staff and participants wear suitable clothing -Ensure good communication with the rest of the team via the walkie talkies.
Cold and Wet	Staff, participants	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure staff and participants wear appropriate clothing and footwear -Non slip climbing steps to the start platform. - Advise visitors when looking around Journey Course of slip & trip hazards and to take care. Helmet to be issued to visitors.
Sunburn	Staff, participants	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure staff and participants wear appropriate clothing - Staff to apply sun protection if necessary
Lightning	Staff, participants, onlookers	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cancel/stop all activities if lightning is a risk -Staff to move participants to a sheltered area.
EQUIPMENT				
Helmet and Harness	Staff, participants	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All staff will have all the necessary equipment ready prior to activity. -Ensure all equipment fits the participants correctly

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff to check all participants fitted/tightened all the equipment correctly -Participants to “Buddy Check” correct fitting of equipment .
Entrapment	Staff, participants	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any long items of equipment and hair to be tied up -All jewellery to be removed or taped over - Staff to carry a rope knife.
Clipping into gear loop	Staff, participants	VL	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff to check correct fitting of equipment prior to the activity -Climber’s rope to be tied in the harness with fig 8 knot or the Dual Action Karabiner and Klipa.
Friction belays	Staff, participants	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff to closely supervise the use of friction devices.
Rope burns	Staff, participants	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff to lower climbers and closely supervise the use of friction devices
Faulty	Staff, participants	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All equipment to be inspected and recorded prior to use and periodic inspection to be followed. (Inspection Matrix).
Misuse	Staff, participants	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All staff to be trained and experienced in delivering the activity they are responsible for. - Staff Development Matrix used to highlight any skills gaps.
Inversion	Staff, participants	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide clear instructions to avoid inversion -Ensure sit harness is fitted correctly and is tight enough to prevent the participant from falling out of it -Chest harnesses to be used in conjunction with sit harnesses. - Visually & manually ask participants to re-tighten their harness as required.
General	Staff, participants	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Advice on selection of correct PPE from suppliers, industry experts and the ropes course construction company -Ensure all equipment is of the correct standard (CE) and the correct

				<p>information regarding maintenance, use, limitations etc is also supplied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Copies of the manufacturer's guidelines for all new equipment is kept onsite and is available to staff -All equipment found to be damaged is taken out of use immediately; all other equipment is replaced following the manufacturer's guidelines -All PPE will be stored in a designated dry, clean area. It will be locked and made accessible only to the appropriate members of staff. -All inspections and maintenance work relating to PPE must be logged -Staff to perform visual checks during activities to ensure PPE is still fitted correctly -Use of personal PPE by staff, contractors or any other person/organisation in any activities on our site is prohibited unless previously approved by the Site Manager
HEIGHT				
General	Participants, Onlookers	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minimum height of 4ft 5in (1.345m) due to the course construction and equipment restrictions -Staff to check if unsure. Height marker next to the pay hut. -Participants are made aware of restrictions via the website and risk acknowledgement form
WEIGHT				
General	Participants, Onlookers	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maximum weight of 18 stone (114kg) due to course load limitations. -Scales available on site -Participants are made aware of restrictions via the website and risk acknowledgement form
AGE				
General	Participants, Onlookers	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minimum age of 10 years of age due to learning abilities and understanding of the KLIPA safety system -Participants are made aware of restrictions via the website and risk

				acknowledgement form
PERSONAL CAPABILITY				
General	Participants	VL	H	-The participant's understanding of the KLIPA safety system is assessed during the safety brief. The instructor will answer any questions regarding the system. -The participant's capability to use the KLIPA safety system is assessed during the first 3 elements. If the instructor considers that the participant has not or can not understand the correct use of the KLIPA safety system he can ask the participant to repeat the first 3 elements. If they fail to complete these elements independently and safely the participant will be removed from the course and offer a full refund.
Provision Of Information	Participants	L	H	-General information regarding the nature of the activities is available on the website -All participants are given a safety brief prior to commencing any activities -Members of staff are available at key points to answer any questions
CLOTHING				
General	Participants	L	H	-All participants wearing clothing that could prevent the correct fitting of PPE or could easily get entangled will be prevented from taking part in the activities -Information regarding clothing can be found on the website
Footwear	Participants	L	H	-All participants wearing footwear that could lead to a slip or trip will be prevented from taking part in the activities. Instructors to use judgement. -Information regarding footwear can be found on the website
STAFF SKILLS				
SITE INSPECTION				
General	Participants, Staff, Onlookers	L	H	-Following extreme weather conditions (high winds, lightening, snow) the

				<p>course must be checked before it is opened to the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Daily checks and inspection of the course before it is open to the public (signs of vandalism, overnight damage) -Monthly full site inspections performed by the Site Manager or a member of staff appointed by the Site Manager -Annual site inspections to be carried out only by a certified inspector -All checks and inspections are to be logged in the relevant log book -Test and conformity certificates are to be kept on file
ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT				
General	Participants, Onlookers	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff always have their PPE fitted prior to and during all activities that have an element of height -Staff are based at key points on the course to ensure participant safety -One member of staff is always on patrol to ensure all participants are safe and that they are not in difficulty -Staff are in constant contact via the walkie talkies and can provide support rapidly if required -Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied and supervised by a participant 18 or over. -A participant 18 or over can supervise no more than 2 participants aged under 16
OTHER				
Unauthorised access	Participants, Staff	VL	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The starting platform gate is locked or shut at all times when staff is not present -All ladders are chained to trees or put in locked storage -All tree staples are at a sufficient height to prevent unauthorised access -Night time security guard -CCTV

Structural work	Participants, Staff, Onlookers	VL	H	-When structural work at height is taking place the area below must be cordoned off in order to prevent injuries caused by falling objects -Whilst performing any structural maintenance work all staff are required to wear the Industrial Accessing harness conforming to EN361 fall arrest EN358 work position.
First Aid	Participants, Staff, Onlookers	VL	H	-First aid supplies available at all times -First aid kit included in the rescue bag -At least one First Aid at Work qualified member of staff present at all times on site

KEY	
VL	Very Low
L	Low
M	Medium
H	High
VH	Very High