

Risk Analysis and Management Process

Activity: Abseiling & Rock Climbing for Blue Skies Abseiling Team
Update Date: 28-Mar-04 by Aaron Bertie

Risk	Dangers	Risk Management Strategies	
Forms of Loss	Incident	People, gear, entail hazards & perils	Policies, standard operating procedures, guidelines & developmental actions.
Any Loss	Fear of activity & lack of participation	Lack of faith in equipment Lack of faith in instructor	Briefing to include explanations of equipment strength Briefing to include background of instructors
	Lack of learning from incidents	No reporting, recording & analysis of incidents Different perceptions of what is an incident	Establish an incident reporting, recording & analysis system Clarify with instructors what is an incident and what should be reported
	Students unsupervised	Group size too large Too few instructors Nothing for students to do	Set maximum ratio guidelines Set maximum number of students allowed on Tower Development activities for non abseilers & Rock Climbers to do
	Medical mishap	Lack of information on medical conditions	Obtain medical information on students
	Jammed abseil device	Poor technique used	Have abseil line threaded over horn
	Jammed safety line	Poor technique used	Use pear shaped karabiners
	Students slipping on descending wall	Slippery footwear Slippery surface Wet or Icy conditions Poor descending technique	Students to wear firm footwear with non plastic soles Slippery surfaces are to be roughened No use of facility in wet or icy conditions Student briefing to include good body position
Forms of Loss	Lack of group control	No ground rules set for behavior Blurred lines responsibility between instructors	Establish safety behavior ground rules at start Establish operational guidelines for responsibility at site
	Lack of rapport between instructors and students	Instructor(s) too young for group Instructor does not demonstrate authority Instructor inconsistent with behavior Instructor excessively authoritarian	Set minimum age for instructor in charge Provide information on leadership styles to instructors Coach instructors on style to use for standard situations Monitor instructor's behavior and give peer feedback Coach instructors on style to use for standard
	Gear failure	Lack of checking systems Poor equipment purchased Poor choice of equipment	Organisational checking systems Instructors coaching on checking to be completed before operation Policy of purchasing only "approved" or "validated" equipment
	Tower Failure	Lack of checking systems Earthquake or storm damage	Organisational checking system & regular engineer's safety report Policy of no use until tower checked by safety officer post "major" earthquakes and storms
	Vandalism of tower	Public place Lack of protection from public Lack of checking by instructors	Ensure "simple" access to tower is not possible Educate public of hazards via signs Instructors complete a system of checks pre use
	Items caught in abseil device	Poor briefing Poor risk management	Briefing includes isolating item that could get caught in abseil device Educate students not to place hands near the descender device / provide hair ties (available on request).
	Students pressured into activity	Lack of challenge by choice Poor perception by instructor Directive language used by instructor	Develop a philosophy of participation Educate instructors to work with students abilities and aspirations, not their own Monitor instructors and give feedback Educate instructors as to the power of manipulative language, monitor and give feedback

Risk

Dangers

Risk Management Strategies

Forms of Loss	Incident	People, gear, entail hazards & perils	Policies, standard operating procedures, guidelines & developmental actions.
Forms of Loss	Bad press for BSAT and outdoor Education	Accidents on the tower No follow up to incidents Lack of national accepted standards Lack of guidelines for who can hire tower No release of liability for hirer's	Have a nominated spokesperson and guidelines for information disclosure Review any incident Inform and involve national bodies in critical cases for benefit of support, improving operations and educating others Clarify legal liability Follow up any incident that requires outside assistance to ensure the student and instructor involved are "cared" for Operate facility and staff in line with national standards (Mountain Safety Council) Ensure hirers of facility are informed of the hazards of the facility and have national standards required to run the facility and absolve the organisation from responsibility for their own imprudent actions
	Incorrect abseil operation	No minimum standards of operation Lack of instructors skills	Document minimum standards of operation, student care, anchors, set up, equipment, operation, ethics Set minimum standards of abilities required by instructors with varying levels of responsibility
	Inattentive instructor	Poor ratios Instructor tired Instructor ill Instructors ability impaired	Set minimum ratios Ensure instructors are not operating abseils or rock climbs for more than 1.5 hours Ensure instructors are not under the influence of any performance affecting drugs or illness Ensure instructors do not work on tower with in 12hrs of consuming alcohol.
	Poor risk management	Lack of instructor skills, experience & knowledge No risk analysis and management process	Set minimum levels of ability Review this process annually
	Poor crisis management	No crisis management process Lack of instructor skills, experience & knowledge	Establish a response plan to critical incidents Provide training and information on how to deal with likely crises
	Technical inability of instructor	Lack of minimum skills required by instructors Lack of organisational monitoring & checking system	Set minimum levels of ability Monitor & confirm instructors ability against a competency checklist or national award (Mountain Safety Council).
	Excessive wear on equipment	Poor briefing No minimum guidelines for use	Briefing to include care of equipment Operating guidelines established e.g. gloves, no gloves, steel karabiners in wear points
Loss of effect	Exclusive language or behavior from instructors	No minimum guild lines Poor training	Training and guidelines established re the "power" of language instructors monitored and given feedback
Psychological Harm	Sexual intimidation Inappropriate touching	No minimum guidelines, lack of monitoring of staff	Instructors trained in behaviors that are acceptable
	Traumatised students	No challenge by choice	Philosophy of operation established
Physical Harm	Instructor or student fall from tower	No safety system for students exposed to hazard of fall Anchor failure	Student always clipped into a safety system Organisation establishes minimum standards for anchor system i.e. how and numbers
	Injury on tower	Traps in structure, bolt, brace on stairs etc	Tower assessed for injury traps and fixed
	Equipment falling on student	Loose gear at top tower	All spare gear tied and clipped in at top of structure / helmets to be worn.
	Heat exhaustion	Lack of liquids, long periods of work	Educate instructors of hazard, structure session so regular breaks can occur
	Sun injuries	Lack of protection	Educate instructors of hazard, sun block available at tower
	Head injuries	No helmets Falling objects	Require helmets to be worn on and adjacent to structure. Loose items tied in.