

Outdoor Climbing and Abseiling

Activity Area: Outdoor Tower
Minimum Staffing Level: 1 Instructor per group
Staff/Pupil Ratio: 45ft: 1:8 25ft: 1:12 25ft Abseil: 2:12 45ft Abseil: 2:8
Staff Qualifications: In-house Training MIA assessed
Maximum Number of Participants: 25ft: 15 45ft: 12
Role of Accompanying Adult: Supervision of group at tower base

Hazard	Outcome/Injury	Persons at risk	Rating	Existing Controls
Fall from height	Death Serious injury	Participants, Instructors	3 - 1	Staff and participants clipped to safety line at start of climb. Correctly fitted helmets and harnesses worn by all participants and staff. Participant descent controlled by trained instructor via safety rope. Tower secured against unsupervised access.
Equipment failure	Death Serious injury	Participants, Instructors	3 - 1	All equipment checked by instructors prior to use. Daily and weekly equipment checks carried out.
Objects falling from structure	Head or Bodily injury	Participants, Instructors Observers	3 - 3	Correctly fitted helmets must be worn within designated area. Base of tower and immediate area out of bounds to casual spectators
Contact with wall during ascent or descent	Head injury, Back injury, Sprains, Cuts, Grazes, Bruises	Participants, Instructors	2 - 3	Correctly fitted helmets worn while climbing/abseiling. Correct technique described by trained instructors. Suitable clothing should be worn (including footwear) Long hair and loose clothing or items of jewellery safely tucked away. Instructors trained in rescue techniques.
Belay equipment	Cuts, Crush injury, Bruising	Participants, Instructors	3 - 3	Instructors trained in correct use of belay equipment. Belay equipment checked for defects prior to use.
Trip hazards (ground anchors)	Sprains, Cuts, Bruises	Participants, Instructors	3 - 3	Ground anchors clearly marked.
Ascending/descending access ladders / steps	Death Serious injury	Participants Instructors	3 - 1	Correctly fitted helmets worn by all staff and participants. Instruction provided on safe ascent and descent of ladder / step sections. If participants use ladder they will descend under rope control at all times.
Structural failure	Death Serious injury	Participants, Instructors, Observers	4 - 1	Climbing structures subject to inspection by an independent engineer.
Adverse weather conditions (outdoor walls)	Electrocution, exposure	Participants, Instructors, Observers	4 - 1	Weather reports monitored. Activity stopped during electrical storms, high winds and heavy rain.
Harnesses and helmet incorrectly fitted	Death Serious injury	Participants, Instructors Observers	3 - 1	Instructor to brief all participants on the correct fitting of harnesses and helmets prior to commencing the activity. Instructor to check each individual's harness and helmet immediately before they ascend the platform
Incorrect abseil technique	Rope Burn Broken Fingers	Participants	3 - 2	Instructor to brief all participants before abseiling the wall. Instructor observers participants abseiling to make sure they are holding the rope correctly Instructor holding safety line restricts participants abseil speed to stop rope burns and check correct technique
Bell ringing	Death	Participants	3 - 1	Instructors trained how to train and observe participants bell ringing with the correct

	Serious injury			<p>technique</p> <p>No less than three participants are used to control the rope when bell ringing each with their own specific task</p> <p>Instructor to hold tail end of the rope</p> <p>Instructor must refer to each participant by name to make sure they understand that the instructions being given are for them and check that they understand before the action takes place.</p> <p>Instructor to constantly pay attention to the rope as well as the climber.</p>
Unauthorised Access	Death Serious injury	All	4 - 1	<p>Group Leader briefing, signage & controlled access.</p> <p>Area locked and secure when not n use</p>

Key

Rating: Likelihood (1 = Very High, 2 = High, 3 = Medium, 4 = Low) - Consequence (1 = Fatal 2 = Major Injury 3 = Minor Injury 4 = No Injury)

2018