



Low Ropes Risk Management Plan

CCC Hawkesbury

School: _____ Year: _____ Dates: _____

Program: _____ Supervising Staff: _____

Activity Context

The low ropes course at CCC Hawkesbury is located near the front of the property, in front of River Lodge on the left end of the property. Low ropes are a fun way to learn teamwork and co-operation skills. Participants complete several different low rope elements in small groups where it is the group members job to safeguard them from falling.

Leader to Participant Ratios

1 **Activity Facilitator** to 17 participants

For all groups with participants under 18yo:
Group is required to have a **Supervising Adult/Teacher**, provided by the group, present

Variations to ratio requirements may occur on a group-by-group basis.

Participation Requirements

Minimum Age: 8 years of age

Variations to participant requirement may occur on an individual client assessment.

Equipment

Participants are required to wear/have the following:

- Appropriate environmental protection (i.e., Hat, sunglasses, t-shirts, raincoat, warm clothing)
- Enclosed footwear
- Adequate water
- mid-thigh or longer length pants for protection
- Any personal medication required (i.e., asthma, EpiPen etc.)

The following personal protective equipment is provided and must be worn by participants using the course:

- Helmets

Activity Facilitators

Activity Facilitators are CCC Activity Staff or equivalent.

Activity Facilitators are trained and signed off as competent to run activity by a qualified permanent CCC staff member.

Note: Where it is not specified the management of risk is expected to be undertaken by the Activity Facilitator.

First Aid / Emergency

The school or group have primary responsibility for first aid, however:

- Activities Co-Ordinator holds current first aid and CPR certificates
- Large First Aid Kit available in First Aid/ PA room in main dining hall.
- For minor incidents, Activity Facilitator/Teacher/Group Leader communicates with Activities Co-Ordinator and fills out Incident Report Form. The school or group, with centre staff determine the need to call an ambulance or a hospital visit.
- For major incidents, if we are first on the scene, we will perform initial First Aid until the Teacher/Group Facilitator takes over. Our “Emergency and Critical Incident Policy and Procedure” outlines additional procedures required for an emergency.

Risk Management Plan

Hazard / Risk Description	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
<i>Activity Specific – Risk factors specifically associated with activity at CCC Hawkesbury</i>				
Falling off course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every participant must have at least two spotters whenever they are on the course • Spotting technique and role of spotters is clearly explained to participants • 1 Participant only on each Low Rope Element/ challenge (course between 2 trees) • Participant undertaking course must wear a helmet. • Activity Facilitator (and Supervising Adult if applicable) constantly monitors participants throughout the course ensuring they are spotting correctly and following safety procedures. • Area around the course is checked for objects on the ground that may cause injury if fallen upon are removed prior to the commencement of the activity 	Possible	Moderate	Medium

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Hazard / Risk Description	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
Tripping over low ropes wires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to brief on being careful of wires and looking where going Only walking not running allowed at low ropes Area is maintained so that wires are easily seen Signage indicates for persons to stay off when not supervised by a qualified instructor. 	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Scratches/cuts From wires on low ropes course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants wear shoes on the course Participants only use ropes with their hands when undertaking the course. Regular inspections of course to minimise frayed wire 	Rare	Minor	Low
Tree or Tree branch falling on person/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular checks of activity area carried out and appropriate maintenance performed e.g., Dead tree branches removed Activity Facilitator to conduct tree check and monitor trees for sign of significant risk of falling e.g., Dead, broken branch, signs of weakness. Participants briefed to keep away from underneath identified risky branch/ tree. In high winds participants removed from under or near trees, activity cancelled, or alternate activities utilised. 	Rare	Catastrophic	Medium
Slipping/Tripping/ Fall/ From uneven surfaces, trip hazards, obstacles in the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area inspected by Activity Facilitator prior to activity and any hazards removed or mitigated e.g., Sticks & rocks on the ground removed. Equipment in activity area set up in an organised manner to reduce trip hazards 	Unlikely	Minor	Low
People – Risk factors associated with the people using the activity				
Participant Behaviour Inability or decision to not follow directions or cooperate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear behaviour expectations set at start of activity sessions Encouraging supportive environment 	Unlikely	Major	Medium

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Hazard / Risk Description	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Instructor collaborates with Adult Supervisor/ teacher to maintaining adequate supervision of all participants throughout the session. Outline consequences of inappropriate behaviour Removal of individual from activity or cancellation of whole activity if safety procedures and instructions are not being followed. 			
Participant Ability Unable to complete activity due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear / Anxiety Complacency / Overconfidence Physical Ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Instructor promotes a supportive environment Participants briefed according to age, ability, experience Participation is based on meeting requirements Demonstration of understanding and/or skills must be shown prior to undertaking activity Participants are guided through activity supportively by Activity Facilitator Activities are challenge by choice - participants are positively challenged but not forced to participate in activity 	Possible	Moderate	Medium
Activity Facilitator Unsafe practices leading to an injury to a participant caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor supervision and instruction by Activity Facilitator Incompetence of Instructing activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Facilitators must always follow Standard Operating Procedures Activity Facilitators are trained and signed off as competent to run activity by qualified permanent CCC staff member. Formal qualifications in Outdoor Recreation and instructing activity area desired. Communication equipment available readily at activity sessions Vigilant supervision always required by Activity Facilitator Leader personal protective equipment and rescue equipment available at activity at all activity sessions 	Unlikely	Major	Medium
Supervising Adult Unsafe practices including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor supervision by group leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups briefed on requirement to provide Supervising Adult for groups with participants under 18 years old, prior to camp and activities. 	Unlikely	Major	Medium

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Hazard / Risk Description	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Facilitator will stop or cancel activity without adequate supervision from Group Leader 			
Observers Injury to... Guests or others observing activity while it is running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observers not allowed to participate in activity without activity briefing Observers briefed on safe areas to view the activity and monitored by Activity Instructor. 	Unlikely	Major	Medium
Unsupervised Users Injury to... Guests on site when activity is not running. Members of public accessing camp land (unauthorised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups briefed on not using facilitated activities without Activity Instructor Signage at low ropes instructing Unsupervised users to keep off. 	Unlikely	Major	Medium
Equipment – Risk factors associated with the equipment used for the activity				
Equipment Failure Due to improper use, faulty / damaged equipment, wear, and tear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Facilitators trained in selection, use, inspection, care & maintenance of activity equipment Activity Facilitators inspect equipment prior to use by the participant each time and not used if there is an issue with the equipment – equipment reported to Activities Co-Ordinator. Participants briefed on proper use and care of equipment e.g., avoid standing on equipment and store in designated area when not in use. All equipment clearly stored and labelled for intended activity. Equipment regularly inspected and maintained Equipment stored, maintained, and retired according to manufacturer instructions and retired early if showing significant signs of wear and tear. All equipment rated and certified for its use and used according to manufacturer guidelines. 	Rare	Major	Low

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Hazard / Risk Description	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
Structure Failure Safety of the Activity tower, and associated structures or anchors required for the specific activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities Tower built by Adventure Developments, an expert provider of Adventure Activity rope and height structures. Yearly inspection conducted by this provider and maintenance conducted as required. 	Rare	Catastrophic	Medium
Environment – Risk factors associated with the environment including weather				
Exposure to UV rays Causing sunburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun smart strategies are encouraged 	Possible	Minor	Low
Exposure to Heat Causing dehydration, heat stroke etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun smart strategies are encouraged Participants are encouraged to drink water, carry water bottles Guests are briefed on location of water filling facilities on arrival In extreme heat activities modified / cancelled and alternate activities arranged 	Unlikely	Moderate	Low
Cold / Wet Weather Causing hypothermia etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather conditions regularly monitored for adverse conditions Participants briefed on wearing suitable protective clothing Activities modified / cancelled if necessary or alternate activities arranged 	Rare	Moderate	Low
Lightning Strike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather conditions regularly monitored for adverse conditions Activities delayed / cancelled when thunder or lightning is present, participants are moved to safe area. Activities modified / cancelled if necessary or alternate activities arranged 	Rare	Catastrophic	Medium
Injury, bites, or allergic reaction caused by organism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups briefed on arrival of appropriate actions for sighting/bite by snakes Area monitored for bees, snakes, spiders and if spotted participants notified of the hazard and managed accordingly. 	Unlikely	Major	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed medication readily available if participant is high risk e.g., EpiPen. • Small first aid kits and radio communication readily available at each activity area, and a more comprehensive first aid kit available in the first aid room if required. Activity Facilitator administers first aid accordingly. • Medical attention/ ambulance sought if required. 			

Risk Ratings

This risk assessment is measured according to the following risk ratings:

Likelihood Ratings

Likelihood is the description of the probability and frequency. The likelihood of the risks occurring as outlined in CCC Hawkesbury risk management plans is determined after the control measures have been implemented.

Score	Description	Broad description of frequency	Time framed description of frequency
1	Rare	The event may occur, but only in highly exceptional circumstances	Not expected to occur for years
2	Unlikely	Could occur at some time	Expected to occur at least annually
3	Possible	Might occur at some time	Expected to occur at least monthly
4	Likely	Will probably occur in most circumstances	Expected to occur at least weekly
5	Almost certain	Is expected to occur in most circumstances	Expected to occur at least daily

Consequence Ratings

The outcome of an event or situation expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being the human impact, damage to infrastructure, disruption to public or financial loss.

Score	Description	Injury or impact details
1	Insignificant	Little or no injury requiring no medical attention; Minimal impact on environment; Insignificant adjustments to program; Insignificant damage to property, normal wear; Some difficulty in retaining competent staff; Expected running costs incurred
2	Minor	Minor injuries requiring first aid / some medical attention; Minor impact to plants / animals, no disruption to ecosystems; Rescheduling / replacement of program activities to client satisfaction; Damage requiring small repairs, low cost; Some difficulty in attracting, developing, resourcing, and retaining competent staff; Minor costs incurred (<\$250)
3	Moderate	Serious injuries requiring hospitalisation / ongoing medical attention; Ecosystem / landscape self-repairs within 12mo; Significant disruption / cancellation of program events; Damage requiring moderate repairs or replacement, moderate cost; Significant difficulty in attracting, developing, resourcing, and retaining competent staff; Moderate costs incurred (<\$1,000)
4	Major	Injuries that are life threatening or causing long term disability; Ecosystem / landscape self-repairs within 36mo; Program disruption causing loss of program; Damage requiring high cost/projects for repair/replacement; Guest experience and program is majorly affected by lack of competent staff; Major costs incurred (<\$15,000)
5	Catastrophic	Fatality; Irrecoverable loss of ecosystem / landscape; Program disruption causing broad loss of reputation; Massive damage, significant replacement of infrastructure required; Programs unable to be fulfilled due to lack of competent staff; Massive costs incurred (>\$15,000)

The consequence of an incident occurring may vary greatly depending on the individual circumstances of each incident.

Example – A student trips and falls – a detailed analysis of falls might show that although falls occur weekly, more serious injuries from falls only occur once or twice a year. In the main most of the other falls have relatively minor outcomes. Therefore, the incident could be scored either according to the severity of the actual outcome, or according to the most likely or typical outcome for that type of incident.

Both approaches are valid, however, to ensure consistency CCC Hawkesbury has adopted an approach to record the most likely or typical outcome for all incidents.

Risk Rating Matrix

All identified risks are recorded in the following risk matrix according to likelihood and consequence. The purpose of this matrix is to provide a snapshot of all identified risks and establish the level of risk to determine if further treatment is required.

Likelihood	Consequences				
	1 - Insignificant	2 - Minor	3 - Moderate	4 - Major	5 - Catastrophic
1 - Rare	1	2	3 Exposure to cold	4 Harness trauma, equipment failure	5 Fall from height, lightning strike, structure failure
2 - Unlikely	2	4 Falling object, injury from environment, chafing	6 Entanglement, exposure to heat	8 Injury to observers, unsupervised persons, participant behavior, unsafe activity facilitator, participant ability, group leader, allergic reaction	10
3 - Possible	3	6 Slipping, cuts, impact injury, rope burn, inverting, UV exposure	9	12	15
4 - Likely	4	8	12	16	20
5 - Almost certain	5	10	15	20	25

Risk Treatment

1-4 Low Risk

- Risk does not generally need to be managed any further (current controls are adequate), however the risk needs to be monitored for changes in circumstances and current control effectiveness.
- Risk generally may be accepted.

5-9 Medium Risk

- Risk needs to be regularly monitored for any changes and control/treatment effectiveness.
- Risk may be accepted after consideration.

10 -14 High Risk

- Risk is unacceptable, risks must be further treated or removed to bring rating to medium
- Risks are to be re-assessed by Activities Co-Ordinator

15+ Extreme Risk

- Unacceptable risk, urgent attention is required to treat or remove risks
- Management to consider elimination of activity

Original Risk Assessment Conducted by: *Jemima Robinson, Activities and Hosting Manager, Mt Victoria* Date: 27th January 2016

Reviewed:

January 2017

*October 2018, Amanda Bennett, Activities Manager, Yarramundi
January 2021, Karina Sullivan, Activities Co-Ordinator, CCC Hawkesbury
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