

High Adventure Artificial Cave Risk Assessment

Last Review of this risk assessment: 13/08/2023

Labyrinth - indoor cave system					
Minimum Leader qualification:		In house training			
Max group size with Leader:		36			
All Instructors should be making dynamic risk assessments on the day taking into account the weather conditions, the group's ability & any other factors that may change.					
Essential equipment					
Personal: Helmet					
Group: Helmets, recommend long sleeves and trousers, empty pockets.					
Instructor: Phone, first aid kit, torch, hatch keys					
Activity/ Process/ Operation	What are the Hazards to Health and Safety	What Risks do they pose and to whom?	Risk Level	What precautions have been taken to reduce the risk?	Risk Level Achieved
			H/M/L		H/M/L
Setting up	Bumps, bruises and grazes within the system while emptying dehumidifiers.	Staff	H	Helmets must be worn inside the system at all times.	M
	Someone falling into the entrances.	All staff and participants and public.	M	Ensure that the hatch guards are in place before opening the hatch.	L
	Falling into the entrances.	All staff and participants	M	Group briefing making everyone aware where the entrances are and to be aware of them. When the any entrance is open the hatch guards must be used.	L
	Injury due to equipment failure.	All staff & participants	M	All equipment regularly inspected according to policies. Staff trained in inspections and procedures.	L
	Lack of Oxygen.	All participants	M	The hatches must stay open while anyone is inside.	L

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During the activity	Lack of Oxygen	All participants	M	The system regularly aired out.	L
	Dusty environment.	All participants	M	The system is cleaned regularly.	L
				Anyone with asthma must carry their inhaler with them.	
	Fire in the system or in the building.	All staff and participants	M	Appropriate staff training.	L
	Entrapment.	All participants	M	Brief the group on how to move around the system and what to expect.	L
				Staff training on emergency action plan. Get everyone else out find them and bring them out of the closest hatch.	
	Over heating	All participants	H	Allow the group breaks and drinks.	M
				Ensure the group wear appropriate clothing.	
	Getting everyone out	All participants	M	Ensure all hatches are accessible at all times and not blocked by bags, furniture etc,	L
				Brief group on how you will communicate with them while they are in the system.	
Bumps, bruises and grazes within the system.	All participants	H	Helmets must be worn inside the system at all times.	M	
			Warn the group that there are drops and low ceilings in the system and to move carefully.		
			first aid kit with instructor. regular maintenance checks to check for any sharp edges and nails.		
Lost Participant.	All participants	M	Group briefing on how to find their best way out of the system.	L	
			Count the group in and out of the system so that everyone is always accounted for.		

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Packing up	System being accessible to anyone.	All participants and public	M	Ensure that the system is never left unlocked without an instructor present and that keys are not left unattended.	L
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The Daunting - outdoor cave system					
Minimum Leader qualification:		In house training			
Max group size with Leader:		15			
All Instructors should be making dynamic risk assessments on the day taking into account the weather conditions, the group's ability & any other factors that may change.					
Essential equipment					
Personal: Helmet, Torch, Suit, Wellies, Belt, change of clothes, towel.					
Group: Helmets, Suits , Light, Belts, Wellies, appropriate clothing, change of clothes, towel.					
Instructor: Phone, first aid kit, torch					
Activity/ Process/ Operation	What are the Hazards to Health and Safety	What Risks do they pose and to whom?	Risk Level	What precautions have been taken to reduce the risk?	Risk Level Achieved
			H/M/L		H/M/L
Setting up/checks	Bumps, bruises and grazes within the system	Staff	H	Helmets must be worn inside the system at all times.	M
	Injury due to equipment failure.	All staff & participants	M	All equipment regularly inspected according to policies.	L
				Staff trained in inspections and procedures.	
	Dusty environment.	All participants	M	The system is checked and maintained regularly.	L
				Anyone with asthma must carry their inhaler with them.	
Fire in the system or in the building.	All staff and participants	M	Appropriate staff training. All access hatches to be unlocked whenever a session is running	L	
Entrapment.	All participants	M	Brief the group on how to move around the system and what to expect from each obstacle/how to approach it.	L	
			All access hatches to be unlocked whenever a session is running		
			Groups accompanied by an instructor		

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During Session	Falls from height/climbs	All participants	M	Climb after "The Tightening", climb from High Ropes atrium into "The Chicane" and final ladder from "Exit Atrium" to be spotted by instructor	L
	Becoming separated	All participants	M	Group accompanied through system by instructor. If the group moves ahead of the instructor then a clear stop point is to be set at the next suitable obstacle or atrium to gather together again.	L
	Deep & cold water obstacles	All staff and participants	M	Cave belts worn by all participants to give a point that can be held by instructors spotting.	L
				Wooden plank can be used to cross sheep deep if appropriate for group. Still spotted by instructor.	
All participants going through "Sheep Dip" and "The Duck" to be spotted by instructor.					
Bumps, bruises and grazes within the system.	All participants	H	Water quality monitored and drained/disinfected/refilled at regular intervals.	M	
			Helmets & cave suits must be worn inside the system at all times.		
			Warn the group that there are obstacles and low ceilings in the system and to move carefully.		
			Group accompanied through system by instructor.		
			first aid kit with instructor.		
Packing up	System being accessible to anyone.	All participants and public	M	regular maintenance checks to check for any sharp edges, damage etc	L
				Ensure that the system is never left unlocked without an instructor present.	

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