

Risk Management Plan - Abseiling on natural surface

An activity group is walked to a small rock pitch. An activity guide rigs the rope pitch with abseil and safety-belay single rope systems and participants descend over the pitch using abseil equipment while the activity guide operates a top-belay safety rig.

Location: Natural rocks up to 6m in height

Leadership ratio: 1:8 at cliff face, other participants awaiting off-pitch.

Typical time: 90 mins

Activity-specific risks

Environment	People	Equipment
Poor weather	Unsafe act of participant	Equipment failure
Falling tree limb	Poor facilitation	Equipment mis-use
Dangerous fauna	Pre-existing medical condition	Anchor failure
Injury during descent	Adverse experience to attempt	
Falling rocks		

History of accidents

Since 2019, 0 participants have participated at Tempus in Abseiling on natural surface

0 have been admitted to hospital

0 have been taken to a medical centre

0 have been treated for first aid

Likelihood/Consequence ratings

	1 Very Unlikely Has not yet happened	2.Unlikely Happens several times in 10 years	3.Likely Happens several times a year	4. Very Likely Happens once a week
3.Severe Injury Hospital admittance	3	6	9	12
2.Major Injury Medical centre	2	4	6	8
1.Minor Injury First aid	1	2	3	4

	Proceed		Proceed with caution		Do not proceed
---	---------	---	----------------------	---	----------------

Contributing factors and raw risk score

Poor weather	Extremes of temperature and stormy conditions	9
Falling tree limb	Species of trees, canopy loads and recent rains	6
Dangerous fauna	Season, vegetation, water-sources and daylight	6
Injury during descent	Roping proficiency and pitch features	8
Falling rocks	Geology, pitch features and descent route	3
Unsafe act of participant	Experience levels and age	9
Poor facilitation	Fatigue, work-stress and group dynamics	6
Pre-existing medical	Diverse participants	6
Adverse experience	Experience levels and age	1
Equipment failure	Use, care, wear, storage and transport	9
Equipment mis-use	Diverse interpretation of manufacturers guidelines	9
Anchor failure	Age, weathering and erosion	6

Risk management strategies and managed risk score

Poor weather	Pre-activity weather checks, in-the-field observations	6
Falling tree limb	Identify trees of risk, manage group flow	3
Dangerous fauna	Prep site, lookout, good comms, aid kit	3
Injury during descent	Protective equipment, belay positioning for visuals	4
Falling rocks	Prep site, protective equipment, manage group flow	3
Unsafe act of participant	Setting boundaries, safety briefing, manage group flow	4
Poor facilitation	Staff management, training and development	6
Pre-existing medical	Alert lists, good comms, aid kit	3
Adverse experience	Facilitate 'challenge-by-choice' framework	1
Equipment failure	Pre-activity check, safety briefing, retirement policy	6
Equipment mis-use	Clear SOPs, specific rigging instructions per pitch	6
Anchor failure	Clear SOPs, specific rigging instructions per pitch	3

Inherent risks

Working at height
Environmental exposure

Other emergency management plans that potentially need enacting

First aid policy and procedures
Emergency response to a lost or missing participant
Emergency response to bushfire
Emergency response to a severe injury or fatality
Crisis management plan

RMP compiled by: Mark Lawler
RMP date: July 2022
RMP review: July 2024