



RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

This form must be attached to the Application for Authority to Conduct an Activity section of the R1 form
Form is prepared by Scouts WA Adventurous Activities Abseil team to assist Activity Groups.



Section 1. ACTIVITY DETAILS

Activity Group **Adventurous Activities**

Section _____

Leader in Charge _____

Activity **Scout Abseil Activity Day**

Activity Date _____

First Aid Officer _____

Section 2. ANALYSE, ASSESS & CONTROL THE RISKS

Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, Leaders, Adult Helpers and Registered Adult Helpers (regardless if they are abseiling or spectating) are all referred to as 'participants' within this Risk Management Plan.

	ANALYSE & ASSESS THE RISK				MANAGE THE RISKS				
	HAZARD	INJURY / DANGER	CURRENT		Risk Rating	CONTROLS	NEW		Residual Risk Rating
			A	B			A	B	
Anchors	Anchor fails	5	1	S	<p>Quarry pitches offer a range of anchors (trees, large boulders, and chemset anchor points) at the abseiling pitches. Where possible, the use of multiple anchors is encouraged, especially in situations where the integrity of the Anchor can not be guaranteed.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of a failure of an anchor point, the second equalized anchor takes the full load, avoiding a total system failure.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained in the selection and use of anchors. When rigging abseil lines (and top belay systems), multiple anchors are used ensuring that the lines back to the anchors have the correct angles and are equalized.</p>	3	1	M	
Bottom Brake	Inexperience / Attentiveness Participant drops	3	3	S	<p>Venturers, Leaders and Adult Helpers are trained to understand the importance of the bottom braking procedure, how to engage the bottom brake, and how and when to disengage the bottom brake.</p> <p>Training includes communication between the participant and the bottom brake person, and the mandatory requirement for the bottom brake person to monitor the participant and remain hold of the abseil line at all times during descent of the participant.</p> <p>Abseil Activity Guide shall monitor the bottom brake person to ensure that there are no unnecessary distractions at the base of the cliff, and the bottom brake person remains attentive to the participant, and maintains a hold of the abseil line in a manner that the bottom brake can be engaged without delay.</p> <p>Additional Briefing: Abseil team shall conduct a separate briefing confirming their responsibility for operating the bottom brake on the abseil line.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained in the use of bottom braking system.</p>	2	1	L	



	Bush Fire Burns & smoke inhalation Website : www.dfes.wa.gov.au	4 2 S	The area in which the quarry is located is susceptible to bushfire during November to April each year. Fire Danger Rating and Bushfire Alerts/Warnings can be obtained for the area from www.dfes.wa.gov.au , including an Alerts & Warnings Map . Top of the cliffs offer good view points for any pending bushfires within the area, giving excellent warning of any approaching dangers. Abseil Activity Guides during periods of high risk of fires shall continue to monitor the local area for any signs of bushfires. In the event of a bush fire, the Abseil team shall invoke the Emergency Evacuation Procedure (EEP) in place, which includes the ability to evacuate the Abseil team and all personnel onsite to a safe location.	2 1 L
	Cliff (Height) Fall from height Resulting in serious injury or in extreme situations death	5 3 H	Abseil Activity Guide shall maintain control of the abseil site and participants at all times. Participants are not permitted to enter within 3 metres of the edge of the cliff (the Danger Zone) unless they are attached to the abseil line, or a tethered (safety) line. Everyone within the Danger Zone must be connected to a tethered line. Safety Briefing: Participants are advised of the dangers of heights and are instructed to remain 3 meters away from the edge of the cliff at all times. Additional Briefing: Abseil team shall conduct a separate briefing of Leaders and Adult Helpers confirming their responsibility for maintaining control of all participants. Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained to be vigilant at all times, monitor participants, and to identify all hazards or potential hazards (ie the dangers that participants can put themselves into when they start to misbehave, play, or start running), and to take appropriate action. Abseil team are trained to work cohesively, monitor and check each other's safety, regardless of age, qualification, or experience. This includes (but is not limited to) a trainee checking an Instructor. Abseil team are encouraged to highlight any concerns they may have in regards to safety, and ask for the concern to be addressed.	3 1 M



*	Cold Weather	<p>Hypothermia (Minor 35-37 degrees)</p> <p><i>Intense Shivering, inability to perform complex tasks, fatigue, poor co-ordination, immobile or fumbling hands.</i></p> <p><i>Note that environmental conditions such as wind and rain can cause Hypothermia.</i></p>	3	2	M	<p>Prior to the activity day, the Leader in Charge shall instruct participants on the dangers of hypothermia, how to identify it, and how to avoid it by wearing suitable clothing for cold weather, including warm jacket and emergency wet weather gear.</p> <p>During extreme weather, the Abseil team shall ensure that there is an ability to extract an affected participant from the activity to a safe location.</p> <p>Safety Briefing: When appropriate, participants are reminded to monitor each other for signs of hyperthermia, and report any concerns to the First Aid Officer.</p> <p>Leader in Charge: Shall continue to monitor the participants throughout the activity day for any signs of hypothermia.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained to monitor weather conditions and participants, to recognise the signs of hypothermia, and to take appropriate action.</p>	2	1	L
	Connection	<p>Descending device becomes detached from harness during abseil, resulting in serious injury or in extreme situations death</p>	5	2	H	<p>Abseil Activity Guides shall check each participant before they commence their abseil to ensure the descending device is correctly rigged, karabiner correctly attaches the descender to the harness, and the karabiner is in a locked stated.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained in the use of multiple descending devices (including the one's used for participants), to check each descending device is correctly rigged to the abseil line in accordance with manufacturers specifications, and the descending/connecting device is correctly locked.</p> <p>Abseil Activity Guides are trained in the use of multiple types of karabiners, and to check the descending device is correctly attached to the harness using a karabiner (connector). Visual and physical verification which involves checking the karabiners locking mechanism and performing a click test. A click test involves squeezing the gate and the spine together to see if the gate opens.</p>	3	1	M
*	Descender	<p>Participants immobilised on face of cliff during abseil caused by clothing, jewelry, hair, or other item caught in abseil equipment.</p> <p>Resulting in minor injury and in extreme situations death (hang syndrome).</p>	3	3	S	<p>During the Abseil, the participants clothing, gloves, or hair becomes trapped into the descending device preventing the participant from descending. This situation can result in serious injuries (scalping of hair and hang syndrome).</p> <p>Safety Briefing: Participants are advised to remove any loose items (ie necklaces, scarfs) and to make certain long hair is tied back.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained to identify loose clothing or hair that might become trapped in the participants descending equipment. Where possible, abseil lines are rigged using system that can allow the Abseil Activity Guide to lower the abseil line/participant safely to the ground or to control the load in both the Abseil line or the Top Line Belay.</p> <p>Abseil pitches are rigged with an emergency line that can be dispatched. Abseil Instructors are</p>	2	1	L



					<p>trained in Vertical Rescue Techniques (including 'Pick-Off') to minimise causing further injury to the participant.</p> <p>Hang Syndrome: Abseil Activity Guides are trained in hang syndrome, the cause, and what needs to be done to avoid this condition from occurring.</p>			
Equipment Failure	Defective harness breaks resulting in serious injury or in extreme situations death	5	3	H	<p>Abseil team use a variety of equipment designed and manufactured specifically for roping activities. Equipment meet stringent national and international standards.</p> <p>Equipment is used, stored, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers requirements.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides regularly check equipment for defects, as well as prior to use at each activity day, or abseil session.</p>	3	1	M
Fallings Objects or Rocks	Impact with a participant on the cliff face or the base of the cliff, resulting serious injury or in extreme situations death	5	3	H	<p>Falling objects or rocks impacts a participant on the cliff face or at the bottom of the cliff. Abseil Activity Guides, prior to the Activity day, inspect and remove any chossy ([climbing] loose rotten rocks) from the dispatch area and cliff face.</p> <p>Abseil Activity Guides check themselves and participants for any objects that are not properly secured and might fall, resulting in an impact with a participant. Such items might include karabiners, helmets, descenders, and any other items being carried.</p> <p>Safety Briefing: Identify the hazard to everyone on site. Instruct everyone to stay away from the base of the cliff unless they are operating a bottom break or disconnecting from the Abseil line.</p> <p>Communication: Instruct everyone on the safety call 'BELOW' should they dislodge or drop an item from the top of the cliff.</p> <p>Instruct everyone on hearing 'BELOW' to DONT LOOKUP, and if at the base of the cliff, to head into the cliff.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity team are trained to minimize the number of people at the base of the cliff where the highest degree of risk exists. The use of top-line belay also assists in reducing the number of people at the base of the cliff.</p> <p>Where bottom line break is in use, Abseil Activity Guide to monitor the base of the cliff to ensure that there is no unnecessary people at the base, and that everyone at the base of the cliff are wearing helmets.</p>	3	1	M
* General Public	Unauthorized or inappropriate contact with Scout Physical, Mental, & Emotional.	3	3	S	<p>Scouts WA Policy requires Scouts to travel in Pairs (Minimum).</p> <p>Scouts and Leaders are required to be vigilante about who is interacting with the Scouts, and</p>	3	1	M



					<p>ensure that leaders/adults do not compromise their integrity with the Scouts. Leaders are to control the behavior of all participants. All adults to have <u>current valid</u> Working with Children's Card, where appropriate.</p> <p>Safety Briefing: Scouts are reminded of the need to look out for each others safety (especially around the public toilet) and travel in pairs (minimum) at all times.</p> <p>Leader in Charge: Shall monitor the behavior and safety of all Scouts.</p> <p>Leader in Charge is required to maintain control and monitor the behaviour of adults (persons 18 years and over) in or around Scouts (person under the age of 18 years), and address any physical or verbal behaviour that is deemed to be inappropriate behaviour with the adult in question, and where appropriate request the offender to leave the activity.</p> <p>Harnessing Scouts: Abseil Activity Guides shall monitor all adults during the fitting of harness to a youth participant ensuring they respect the participants personal areas (No Go Zones).</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained to understand what is appropriate and inappropriate contact, and what might be perceived as inappropriate contact by the general public.</p> <p>Abseil Activity guides are trained in methods of fitting a harness to avoid inappropriate contact (or the perception of inappropriate contact) with participants.</p>				
Harness	Incorrectly Fitted		5	3	H	<p>Abseil team use harnesses that are designed and manufactured for roping activities.</p> <p>Abseil Activity Guides shall check all harnesses are properly fitted each time the participant is connected to the abseil line.</p> <p>Safety Briefing: Participants are briefed on the importance to ensure their harness is checked every time they connect to the Abseil line, or any time that they remove their harness.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained in the correct use and fitting of harnesses in accordance with manufacturers specifications and instructions.</p> <p>Abseil Activity team understand the limitations of each harness.</p>	3	1	M



	Harness Failure	Defective harness breaks resulting in serious injury or in extreme situations death	5	3	H	<p>Abseil team use a variety of harnesses designed and manufactured specifically for roping activities. Harnesses meet stringent national and international standards.</p> <p>Harnesses are used, stored, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers requirements.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides regularly check harnesses for defects, as well as prior to use at each activity day, or abseil session. Harnesses are retired and removed from service (regardless of their condition) in accordance with manufacturers specifications.</p>	3	1	M
*	Hot Weather	Sunstroke / Heatstroke – Hyperthermia <i>Headache, dizziness, disorientation, fatigue, seizure, hot/dry skin, high body temperature, rapid heart beat, hallucinations.</i>	2	3	M	<p>Prior to the activity day, the Leader in Charge shall instruct participants on the dangers of hyperthermia, how to identify it, and how to avoid it by wearing suitable clothing for hot weather. Including hats and sunscreen for hot weather, and have sufficient water supply for duration of activity (recommend 4 litres per participant).</p> <p>During extreme weather, ensure that there is an ability to extract an affected participant from the activity to a safe location.</p> <p>Safety Briefing: When appropriate, participants are reminded to monitor each other for signs of hyperthermia, and report any concerns to the First Aid Officer.</p> <p>Leader in Charge: Shall continue to monitor the participants throughout the Activity day for any signs of hyperthermia., and ensure that the Group has an emergency water supply of 2-3 litres of water per participant.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are trained to monitor weather conditions and participants, to recognise the signs of hyperthermia, and to take appropriate action.</p>	2	1	L
	Insects & Spiders	Bites & Infections from Bites	2	2	L	<p>Ticks are most likely to exist in Grass Trees and bush shrubs.</p> <p>Participants are advised to stay away from Grass Trees and Bush Shrubs, and to check themselves for ticks. Participants are advised to report any tick, spiders and insect bites to their First Aid Officer.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are qualified in applying first aid should the group fail to have a suitably qualified First Aid Officer.</p>	2	1	L



*	Outdoor Elements	<p>Extreme change in weather conditions</p> <p>Website : www.bom.gov.au</p> <p> www.eldersweather.com.au</p>	2	3	M	<p>Abseil team and the Leader in Charge of the activity group shall check local weather forecast within 48 hours and 24 hours prior to the Activity day.</p> <p>Leader in Charge: During extreme weather conditions the Leader in Charge shall ensure that suitable shelter is available, and that appropriate preventative measures have been implemented to minimize a participants unnecessary exposure to the elements.</p> <p>Such action may include supplying additional equipment such as Shelters, Tarps, water supply etc...</p> <p>In the unlikely event that the Leader in Charge does not understand what preventative measures can be implemented, the Leader in Charge must contact the Abseil team for advice, allowing sufficient time to implement any recommendations made by the Abseil team.</p>	2	1	L
*	Pets	<p>Damage to Equipment</p> <p>Unnecessary Distraction resulting in mistakes or injuries</p>	3	3	S	<p>Abseil team discourage Pets being on site as they can result in participants becoming distracted or causing a participant to enter into a high risk / hazardous area without proper consideration or personal protective equipment.</p> <p>Dogs can urinate on thousands of dollars worth of ropes, harness and equipment. In some instances the equipment may need to be taken out of service and destroyed.</p>	1	1	L
	Rocks	Impact with a participant on the cliff face or the base of the cliff, resulting serious injury or in extreme situations death	5	3	H	Refer 'Falling Objects & Rocks'	3	1	M
	Rope Failure	Defective or inappropriate rope breaks resulting in serious injury or in extreme situations death	5	2	H	<p>Abseil team use a variety of static kern-mantle ropes designed and manufactured specifically for roping activities. Ropes meet stringent national and international standards.</p> <p>Ropes are used, stored, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers requirements.</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides regularly check ropes for defects, as well as prior to use at each activity day, or abseil session. Ropes are retired and removed from service (regardless of their condition) in accordance with manufacturers specifications.</p>	3	1	M



Ropes	Rope Burn	3	3	S	<p>Information booklet supplied to Activity Groups identifies the need for participants to wear suitable clothing that does not expose skin around the hips.</p> <p>Abseil Activity Guides shall check each participant prior to their abseil that they are wearing gloves and that there is no exposed skin that could result in rope burns.</p> <p>Abseil team has small, medium, large, and extra large Gloves (PPE). These are checked for holes and provided to all participants at the start of the briefing session.</p> <p>Safety Briefing: Participants are reminded of the risk of rope burn and the need to wear gloves.</p>	2	1	L
Soft Drinks	Can cause equipment failure Resulting in serious injury or in extreme situations death	5	2	H	<p>Many soft drinks contain acids, which may compromise the integrity of the fibers used to make ropes, harness, slings and cords.</p> <p>To maintain safety (and the integrity our equipment) soft drinks are not permitted on Activity days.</p>	3	1	M
Snakes	Person bitten by Snake	4	2	S	<p>Participants are encouraged to travel in pairs (minimum) and to keep to tracks where possible, wearing suitable footwear and clothing for a bush environment.</p> <p>Dugite Snakes are known to exist within the area, and may be active during the period of October/November. Avoidance is best. Dugite's are venomous, and potentially lethal. Coloured : Grey, Green or Brown</p> <p>Briefing: Abseil Activity Guides during high periods of snake activity shall instruct participants to be aware of snakes, keep to tracks, and travel in pairs (minimum).</p> <p>Training: Abseil Activity Guides are qualified in applying first aid and trained in the Emergency Response Plan (ERP).</p> <p>Emergency Response Plan: In event of an Emergency, Activity Operator shall invoke the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) using first aid training including the immediate evacuation of all participants to the Emergency Assembly Area and the affected participant evacuated to the nearest hospital. First aid kit is available with sterile pad and compression bandage.</p>	3	1	M



	Tracks	Slips, Trips & Falls resulting cuts, abrasions, and in extreme circumstances minor fractures and sprained ankles.	2	5	S	Tracks that lead up to the top of the cliffs, whilst well defined, can come within 3 metres of the edge, contain loose rocks, and ruts. Tracks can also be slippery when wet. Safety Briefing: Participants are advised of the hazard, instructed to be careful of tracks that approach close to an edge. Participants are discouraged from running, or using tracks not identified as suitable by the Abseil Activity Guide. Abseil Activity Guides at the completion of the safety briefing shall take small groups of participants up the track to the top of the cliff, pointing out any potential hazards to avoid on the way.	2	2	M
*	Vehicles	Youth Member being hit by Vehicle	4	3	H	Quarries are public access. Vehicle access to the site is controlled by a locked gate. DPaW limit the number of groups that have access to the gate code, and require the gate to remain locked at all times. This limits the number of vehicles that have access to the site. Abseil Activity Guides shall monitor vehicle movement and encourage vehicles to travel at 10km per hour.	3	1	M
	Wildlife & Feral Animals	Bites & Cuts	2	2	L	Participants are advised not to approach or attempt to feed any wildlife, and to store rubbish in a manner that does not attract wildlife into the area.	2	1	L

(Highest Residual) RISK RATING for ACTIVITY

Moderate



Section 3. APPROVAL of Risk Management Plan

Leader Responsible

Group Leader

District Commissioner

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____