

Risk Assessment Caving

Hazard	Control Measures	Mechanism
Entrapment / flooding	Use of known systems, understanding of hydrology, prevailing weather conditions and environmental factors. Abort if system in spate	Use of known systems by competent instructors. Clear parameters on call out time, depending on system
Extremes of temperature	Good information given on suitable clothes & checked prior to trip.	Spare clothes available on surface & underground to equip anyone in unsuitable clothes.
Exhausted Caver/ Caver unable to climb out (vertical caves)	Well drilled set of hoisting techniques. All vertical equipment to approved standards Initiate call out.	Only carefully selected staff & clients on L 2 trips / Vertical cave trips. Well versed on wet pitches.
Slips and falls / contact with Rock	Correctly fitted helmets, good lighting, appropriate clothes and boots. Good spotting First aid kit carried Coaching in movement Skills. Route Judgement.	Trips to be suitable for all members of party taking into account size and overall ability and the return to the surface. Items of cave isolated and appropriate routes used
Entrapment in rigging	Competent Instructors All rope systems releasable & reversible. Knife used if necessary but only when subject is securely attached by other means	Level II Vertical Leaders instructors or above on vertical sections of cave
Equipment failure	UIAA & CE marked equipment used. Equipment checked before and after each use.	Known History / purchase records. Disposal of damaged equipment
Slow party	Realistic choice of venue, build in alternative options if appropriate. Call out procedure, clearly understood. Monitor time very carefully – cut short	
Slow individual	Cut objective short Differentiate by use of avoiding challenges for the individual enabling them to recover	Inclusion Strategies Differentiation

Waterborne viruses such as Weills Disease	Cover cuts and grazes brief if appropriate on symptoms. Gloves recommended on	Avoid problem areas, report any occurrence through P.I.C.A First Aid Awareness of symptoms

Specific monitoring of sites will be done through membership of P.I.C.A and / or changes to existing safe practice implemented in accordance with the Local Cave & Mine Leader assessment panel or via the Association of Caving Instructors.

Chris Carter is our designated Radiological Officer

DG is approved B.C.A Trainer & Assessor for the LCMLA scheme (all 6 Modules).

Professional links through 'Local leaders panel' and the Association of Caving Instructors.

Additional training when appropriate.

Regular staff must undergo at least 10 days personal development per year.

Annual training in other caving regions

Avoid Skill fade.

AALS Reference: R1124

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