

Assessment of:	Via Ferrata	Location:	Mount Cook
Completed by:	James Clarke	Date of assessment:	February 2026
Reviewed by:	Steve Turner	Next Review Date:	February 2027
Ratio:	1:12 Max and Min 1 Group Leader	Staff Competencies	Internal training and session assessment by Activity Manager, CEO or Tech Advisor. Rescue assessment by CEO or TA
Activities Covered:	Via Ferrata	Specific Emergency Procedure:	Lower the casualty to the ground, give first aid and call for assistance from centre if needed

Hazard (something with the potential to cause harm)	Risk (how could the hazard cause harm, and who could it harm)	Control Measures (what is required to reduce the risk)	In Place (Y/N)	Action Required	Action Owner	Residual Risk (assuming all controls in place; Low, Med, High)
Unauthorised access to course	To Unauthorised personnel: Physical injuries, fractures or death from falls from height.	Remove kit after session and do not leave unattended for long periods	Y	Kit not left out for long periods when not in use. Check signs always in place	Activity Mgr. Activity Instructors	LOW
		Equipment kept secure when not in use Signage at usual access points on course that activity should not be attempted unless supervised by approved Mt Cook staff	N		Activity Mgr & Activity staff	LOW
Course structure vandalised or damaged – severe	To staff, volunteers, participants, contractors:	Quarterly inspection by Activity Manager.	Y	Annual inspection by external Type C qualified persons to be	Activity Mgr.	LOW
		Annual inspection by external ERCA Type C	Y			
		Before all sessions instructors to check that all aspects of structure - elements and components, are in working order.	Y			

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storms/winds/ earthquake	Physical injuries, fractures or death from falls from height.	Pre-Use checks completed daily. Course is not used if components damaged. Course not to be used during periods of high risk of lightning strikes.	Y Y	scheduled in by Activity Manager Pre-use checks to be completed		
Medical emergency	To All: Risk that someone may experience prolonged wait for medical attention. Resulting in long term complications, bleeding out, shock, and or death	All staff to be trained in basic first aid. Preferably Outdoor FA Portable first aid kit available Participants to bring their own medications to the session and carry them throughout if necessary. Any pre-existing medical conditions to be declared in advance of activity being undertaken. Consent form signed. Instructors to be able to rescue participants quickly and effectively within 15 minutes.	Y Y Y Y	Staff training and competent to run session. Regular rescue drills.	Activity Mgr.	LOW

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Incorrectly fitted PPE	To All: Physical injuries, fractures or death from falls from height. Items falling from height causing impact injuries	Safety instructions given from staff at start. Harnesses and helmets to be fitted and adorned before leaving the main area. Constant vigilance by trained leaders. Harnesses and helmets to be rechecked immediately before climbing. Correct harnesses and helmets fitted for participant.	Y Y Y Y	Regular PPE checks during session. Staff unable to run session unless signed off as competent	Activity Mgr & Activity Instructors	LOW
Faulty Equipment	To All: Physical injuries, fractures or death from falls from height.	All equipment checked by trained leaders prior to use. Quarterly thorough PPE Checks Stock of spare kits accessible on site	Y Y	Activity Mgr. to carry out monthly inspections of structure	Activity Mgr & Activity Instructors	LOW
Falling from height – i.e. due to incorrectly attached equipment, mis clipping	To All: Physical injuries, fractures or death from falls from height.	Group ratio limited to 1:12 leader to participants Safety brief given to all participants in the activity. Only competent instructors to lead activity. Instructors to carry out 'Final checks' before climbing commences Staff monitored by senior instructor and signed off as competent before solo session.	Y Y Y Y	Log all equipment checks on papertrail Log all staff training and TA sign off's on Cinolla	Activity Mgr.	LOW

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		Participants to only access course using Zaza on continuous belay system	Y			
Inadequate supervision.	To Participants: Risk of minor injuries.	Ratio of leaders to participants controlled to effectively manage the group. Safety brief given to all participants taking part in the activity. Visiting adults to help supervise the group.	Y Y Y	Booking co-ordinators to inform group leaders of supervision requirements /ratio	Booking Co-ordinators	LOW
Adverse weather conditions – Cold, wet, windy, Hot	To Participants, Volunteers, contractors and Staff: risk of heat stroke, sun burn, Hypothermia	Instructors to monitor weather conditions before and during session. kit list to be sent in advance of arrival with suitable clothing list. spare clothing in centre for those under-prepared participants. Sun cream to be available for everyone in the centre. Water available whilst on session in hot conditions.	Y Y Y Y Y	Weather conditions monitored. Fleeces/ waterproofs issued to group as appropriate	Instructors	LOW

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		Monitor thunderstorm potential and lightning risk, evacuate the course in the event thunderstorms threaten.				
Hands slipping whilst holding metal wire, finger entrapment	To All: Minor injury	Safety brief given to all participants of danger of holding the wire. Instructors vigilant during the activity session. Fingerless gloves recommended & provided Jewellery removed (particularly rings and earrings) or taped up to prevent “degloving” and other injuries from caught items.	Y Y Y Y	Instructors to deliver safety brief Instructors	Activity Mgr. Activity Manager	LOW
Splinters	To All: Minor injury	Hazard highlighted in safety brief to participants. Element checked for excessive splitting of the wood and recorded.	Y Y	Reports logged on Papertrail.	Activity Mgr.	LOW
Slips, trips and falls.	To All: Minor and major injury	Group given safety brief outlining boundaries.	Y	Clear briefing.	Instructors	LOW
Falling to the ground at the start of the course/training area.	To All: Minor and Major Injury, especially to ankles and lower back	Instructors to be very attentive and directive; particularly at the start of the course until participants are well established on course.	Y Y	Clear briefing. Close supervision	Activity Mgr. Activity Instructors	LOW

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Entanglement with the upper wires, factor 2 falls	To All: Risk of needing rescuing, Significant Injury.	Instructors give clear safety brief at start of activity. Ensure that all climbers know that they must not climb above the safety cable Close supervision on vertical ascent and descent to ensure that safety zaza is above the participant at all times.	Y Y Y	Clear briefing. Close supervision. Pre use checks to ensure alignment of brake stops on vertical cables.	Activity Mgr and Instructors	LOW
Collision with quarry rock, falling debris	To All: Minor and Major Injury	helmets to be worn by participants at all time. Brief the group and ensure they keep their helmets on at all times, especially at the bottom of the quarry. Pre-use course check completed by instructors to include top of quarry. Annual Inspection of Cliff by external geo-technical organisation.	Y Y Y	Clear briefing. Close supervision Complete run through of course prior to group starting session	Activity Mgr and Instructors CEO	LOW
Participant unable to wear helmet for	To participant: Personal injury to self through	Participants own headwear (Turban)	Y Y	Careful supervision.	Activity Mgr and Instructors	MED

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religious reasons	impact or contact with stationary or falling objects.	<p>Activities with known risk of falling objects: Participants placed so that never below another participant. Assessment made on training route and level1 about participant confidence & decision made whether to allow them onto level 2. If very nervous and not listening then don't allow onto L2</p> <p>Thorough brief by instructor to ensure participants understand the content of activity before climbing begins.</p> <p>Instructor to dynamically risk assess group's behaviour and weather conditions, adapting the session or stopping it if deemed unsafe.</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p>	Participants briefed on potential risks.		

Risk Assessment Checked by H&S or Line manager.

Name: Steve Turner CEO

Date reviewed: 27/2/26



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