

Assessment of:	Abseiling		
Location:	Onsite	Date of assessment:	Dec 2022
Completed by:	Phil Ball	Expiry Date:	Feb 2024
Ratio:	1:12 Max and Min 1 Group Leader	Staff Competencies	SPA, RCI, or In-house trained. Must have suitable group management experience.
Activities Covered:	Abseil Onsite	Specific Emergency Procedure:	Should an incident occur in which immediate threat to life or limb occurs: Lower casualty to the ground, if part way down abseil route. Give first aid Call for immediate emergency assistance.

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)
Unattended Equipment	To Unauthorised personnel: injury or death if use of equipment attempted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abseil anchors and rope left in tidy and organised fashion Do not leave any knots tied in ropes at base of crag. Leave no unattended carabiners or Figure 8 devices at base of crag. Gate at entrance to abseil area locked when unattended. 	Y Y Y Y	Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations TA to spot check training/induction process. Training to be logged on Cinolla.	Activity Mgr & Activity Instructors.	LOW

Low = Slight injury or minor ill health / It is highly unlikely that the harm would occur

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Lightning Storm	To staff, volunteers, participants, To All; danger of lightning strike, resulting in death or serious injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not abseil in thunder storms or if forecast for that planned session period. 	Y	Monitor weather forecast and cancel session if required	Activity Manager & Activity Instructors.	LOW
Medical emergency whilst abseiling	To All: Risk that someone may experience prolonged wait for medical attention. Resulting in long term complications, bleeding out, shock symptoms, and or death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors to be trained in 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 lower/rescue participant from abseil safely and effectively if required. Using recommended MLTB method of tying off and releasing ropes using hitches. Instructors to be trained and inducted in appropriate rescue scenario for the specified location. 	Y Y Y Y Y Y	<p>Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations</p> <p>TA to spot check training/induction process.</p> <p>Training to be logged on Cinolla.</p>	Activity Mgr & Activity Instructors.	LOW

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Incorrectly fitted PPE	To All: Risk of Falls, compression injuries, head/spinal injuries, cuts, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety instructions given from instructors at start. Harnesses and helmets to be fitted at start of session, only removed in controlled designated area. Constant vigilance by trained instructor(s). Harnesses and helmets to be rechecked before abseil descent Correct harnesses and helmets fitted for participant. 	Y Y Y Y Y	<p>Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations</p> <p>TA to spot check training/induction process.</p> <p>Training to be logged on Cinolla.</p>	Activity Mgr & Activity Instructors.	LOW
Faulty Equipment	To All: Risk of muscle & impact damage, head/spinal injuries, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment checked by trained instructors prior to use. Harnesses and helmets to be checked before abseil descent Visual check of any abseil hardware and rope before use. All faulty equipment to be condemned and quarantined to eliminate chance of being brought back in circulation 	Y Y Y Y	<p>Activity Mgr or designated lead to carry out quarterly inspections of equipment and log on Papertrail</p> <p>PPE checks to be logged on Papertrail</p>	Activity Mgr.	LOW

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Manual handling (activity set-up)	To Staff, Volunteer: Risk of muscle injuries, strains, bruising, cuts, falls, head/spinal injuries, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only carried out by staff trained in setup Heavy equipment carried in appropriate bags. Ask for assistance if required. Work in pairs where possible Staff trained in Manual Handling (T.I.L.E. Methodology. Task/Individual/Load/Environment; awareness of importance of each of these in an outdoor scenario)	Y Y Y Y	Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations TA to spot check training/induction process. Training to be logged on Cinolla. Manual Handling Training	Activity Manager Centre Manager.	LOW
Falling due to incorrectly attached equipment	To All: Risk of falling from height, impact injuries, cuts bruises, broken limbs, spinal/head injuries and death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group size limited to max 12 participants Safety brief given to all participants in the activity. Only qualified, or suitably trained and inducted instructors to setup and lead abseil activity. Rig abseil only using recommended MLTB method; with both abseil and safety rope being tied off using a releasable system with hitches. Instructor to ensure participants are tied in to safety rope with figure of 8 knot or tri-action locking carabiner. 	Y Y Y Y Y	Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations TA to spot check training/induction process.	Activity Mgr.	LOW

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant abseil rope attached using tri-action carabiner and fig 8 device. 	Y	Training to be logged on Cinolla.		
Inadequate supervision.	To Participants: Risk of minor injuries, cuts, bruises, abrasions, impact injuries, head/spinal injuries, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of instructors to participants controlled to effectively manage the group. Maximum of 1 abseil system in use. Safety brief given to all participants taking part in the activity. Ask group leader to help supervise the group. Clearly defined 'safe' areas for waiting participants at top of crag, within sight of instructor, and outside of fenced/gated off area. Participants only 'called' through gate to top of crag by instructor. Designated descent/ascent path to reach top/bottom of crag. 	Y Y Y Y Y Y	<p>Booking Coordinators to inform group leaders of expected ratio's.</p> <p>Instructors to monitor group sizes and effective group management</p> <p>Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations</p> <p>TA to spot check training/induction process.</p>	Booking Coordinator s Instructors	LOW
Falling from height	To All: Cuts, bruises, impact injuries,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abseil routes only rigged by qualified or full in house trained instructors. Abseil system only operated by qualified or in-house trained instructors. 	Y Y	Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity	Activity Mgr.	LOW

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	head/spinal injuries, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to be tied on to safety rope before approaching abseil take off point, and well away from crag edge. All PPE checked before use in line with Operating Procedure 	Y Y	<p>staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations</p> <p>TA to spot check training/induction process.</p> <p>Training Logged on Cinolla</p> <p>PPE checks to be logged on Papertrail</p>		
Participant missing safety critical instructions	To Participants: Risk of facial and neck injuries Risk of impact injuries and spinal damage, death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full co-operation from group leaders in group control and discipline. Clear instructor briefing at beginning of session. Instructor to remain vigilant and repeat instructions before abseil starts. Participants reminded of need to stay in designated safe waiting area, outside of gated/fenced area at crag top, whilst waiting for turn. 	Y Y Y Y	<p>Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations</p> <p>TA to spot check training/induction process.</p> <p>Training logged on Cinolla.</p>	Activity Mgr.	LOW

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Entrapment in the ropes.	To All: Risk of hair, hands or neck being caught in rope; cuts, abrasions, lacerations, bruising, spinal damage, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all hair is tied back and not able to get caught in rope/carabiner/fig 8 device. Instruct participants carefully on correct hand position to control abseil descent. Clear brief given by instructor on correct methods. Practice of abseil method on easier ground (e.g. grass slope) to familiarise participants with abseil process. 	Y Y Y Y	Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations TA to spot check training/induction process. Training logged on Cinolla.	Activity Mgr.	LOW
Bad weather /extreme weather	To All: Hypothermia, heatstroke, leading to major injury and or death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session ended if weather conditions become unsafe, i.e. too wet or too cold, extreme heat. Instructor to ensure group members are adequately equipped to be outside. 	Y Y Y	Instructors to be trained and inducted by appropriate senior Mount Cook activity staff. Including specific site induction visits and observations TA to spot check training/induction process. Training logged on Cinolla.	Instructors	LOW

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Risk Assessment Checked by H&S or Line manager.

Name : Steve Turner CEO

Date : 11th January 2023



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