

RISK ASSESSMENT: Jacobs Ladder

Completed by: Activities Management Team

Date: 18/12/2025

Review Date: 18/12/2026

What is the Hazard?	Who may be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Risk Rating			Control Measures in Place	Remaining Risk		
			Probability	Severity	Risk		Probability	Severity	Risk
Falling From a Height	Participants	Bruises, cuts and grazes. Contusions, concussion and death (impact with ground)	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by the technical advisor as part of the Level 1 Ropes Assessment. All staff are periodically monitored to ensure compliance with procedures. All participants are provided with a suitable climbing harness. The instructor explains how to fit the harness correctly and participants are checked before ascent that the harness is fitted correctly. Any persons whilst of the ground must be connected to a suitable safety system. The instructor monitors the group to make sure no one climbs before the instructor has checked their equipment and safety rope. The group is shown how to belay, either the five point with tailor or bell ringing technique depending on the groups level and competency. Appropriately qualified and signed off staff required with a 5-point belay group. Appropriate belay devices are used. Safety knots are put into the rope by the instructor, at intervals as an extra safety back up. The instructor monitors the group whilst they are belaying. The instructor is responsible for lowering a participant from the activity. 	1	5	5
Slips, Trips and Falls	All	Cuts, bruises and grazes.	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment not being used is put away in the store or stored neatly to the side. Participants warned about potential hazards. All participants must be wearing sensible footwear (closed toe shoes). 	1	1	1
Entrapment	All	Compression/ crushing injuries	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose jewellery to be removed, long hair tied back and loose clothing to be secured. Instructor is trained in the correct rescue technique for the activity. 	1	4	4

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Exposure / Hypothermia and Sunburn	All	Sunburn, high temperature and dehydration.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and participants must have suitable clothing for the weather and activity. Both staff and clients to drink plenty of water. Sun cream applied when needed. Wooden shelters in activity area. 	1	2	2
Objects Falling from a Height	All	Bruises, contusions and concussion.	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everybody in the area must be wearing a helmet. All structural elements are physically checked and recorded during 3 monthly inspections, as well as visually from the ground prior to the start of a session. All participants are to remove everything from their pockets before they put on their climbing harness. Footwear must be appropriate and securely fastened. 	1	2	2
Adverse Weather	All	Sunburn, high temperature, dehydration	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the first sign of thunder and lightning continue until the flash to bang is no less than 30 secs, at which point the activity stops immediately. The activity may continue 30 minutes after thunder is last heard. If there are high winds, then the activity will stop and anybody off the ground will be safely lowered down. This decision will be made by the Activities Co-Ordinator or combination of Duty Manager and Lead Instructor/s. Refer to 'Adverse Weather' policy 	2	4	8
Group Behaviour	All	Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/ not listening.	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leaders are to ensure that the group is under control at all times. Instructor is to stop the session if participant behaviour becomes dangerous. Instructor to check with group leader at the start of the session for any neurodiverse participant's and make sure control measures are in place to appropriately manage their needs. 	1	2	2
Unauthorised Access	All	Accessing the activity at height without PPE or qualified supervision	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All access points to be locked when the activity is not in use. Only authorized persons have a key to the area. Any access points to have sign stating, 'No Access to Unauthorised Persons.' 	1	5	5

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Equipment Failure	All	Cuts, Lacerations, Death	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment is visually checked by the instructor prior to being used. Items deemed to be faulty are removed from use immediately, logged and placed in the quarantine bin. As per policy 5.3 faulty or damaged equipment. 6 monthly inspections to be completed and logged by a PPE inspector having attended a 'Competent Person' course. 	1	4	4
Structure Failure	All	Cuts, bruises, grazes, broken bones, multi-skeletal injury, death	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily visual inspections of structure carried out during set up and logged on sheets. Detailed 3 monthly structure checks carried out and recorded. Areas of concerns to be inspected by technical expert. Annual inspection undertaken by an independent competent person. 	1	5	5
Strangulation	All	Broken neck, bruising, rope burn	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure correct belay technique is used to avoid slack rope. Loose items of clothing (e.g. Necker's) are removed. Instructor trained in appropriate rescue techniques. Instructor to ensure figure of 8 knot is tied correctly. 	1	5	5
Metal Splinter, Cuts or Grazes	All	Metal splinter, cut or Graze	5	2	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants warned not to grab wires. Visual checks by instructors to spot increased risk. 	1	2	2
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency and/or loss of focus could result in putting everyone at risk	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by our Technical Advisor for roped activities as part of the Level 1 Ropes Assessment. All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with. All instructors are aware of where risk assessments and operating procedures are stored. Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in one day. Instructors made aware of any changes to activity, via activity change sheet. 	1	5	5

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Level	Likelihood Factor	Severity Description
1	Very Unlikely	Insignificant – No injury or No First Aid required.
2	Unlikely	Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising.
3	Fairly Likely	Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work.
4	Likely	Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cut etc.
5	Very Likely	Catastrophic – Amputations or Death.

Remaining Risk Level	Description
1-5	Very low, minimal risk, control measures more than adequate
5-10	Low, control measures satisfactory
10-15	Medium, control measures adequate
15-20	High, control measures need further consideration
20-25	Very high, intolerable, stop Job