

# RISK ASSESSMENT: Tunnelling

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
Slips, trips and falls	All	Cuts, bruises and grazes	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All equipment not being used is put away.</li> <li>• Participants warned about potential hazards.</li> <li>• All participants must be wearing suitable footwear (closed toe shoes).</li> </ul>	2	2	4
Exposure/ Hypothermia and Sunburn	All	Sunburn, high temperature and dehydration.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and participants must make sure they have suitable clothing prior to the activity.</li> <li>• Staff and participants to drink plenty of water.</li> <li>• Sun cream applied when needed.</li> </ul>	1	3	3
Group Control	All	Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/not listening.	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group leaders are to ensure that the group waiting is under control at all times.</li> <li>• Instructor is to stop the session if participants' behaviour is dangerous.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	1	2	2
Unauthorised Access	All	Musculoskeletal injuries, cuts, bruises from lack of adult supervision	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All access points to be locked when the activity is not in use</li> </ul>	1	3	3
Adverse Weather	All	See 'Exposure'	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants are advised to wear suitable clothing for weather conditions.</li> <li>• Refer to 'Adverse Weather' policy</li> </ul>	2	4	8
Equipment Failure	All	Musculoskeletal injuries, cuts, bruises	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All equipment is inspected periodically and anything faulty is removed from use immediately, recorded and repaired or replaced.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	1	2	2

## RISK ASSESSMENT: Tunnelling

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
Sprains, Strains and Other Injuries	All	Musculoskeletal related injuries	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants should be advised on correct technique when travelling through tunnels (on hands and knees or on belly).</li> <li>Participants are asked to take care in how they are travelling through the tunnels.</li> <li>Knee Pads to be fitted correctly to protect against friction burn.</li> </ul>	1	3	3
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency and loss of focus could put everyone at risk	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors trained and assessed before leading a session alone.</li> <li>All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with.</li> <li>Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in a day.</li> <li>Instructors made aware of any changes to activity.</li> </ul>	1	3	3
Structure Failure	All	Crushing, compression injuries and head injuries	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should only be six participants within the tunnels at one time.</li> <li>Participants are told to avoid putting fingers and feet in a position that might get crushed by others in tunnel.</li> <li>Helmets must be worn by all participants in the tunnels at all times.</li> <li>Participants supervised by instructor and group leaders.</li> </ul>	1	4	4
Bites and Stings from Insects and Plants	All	Bites, stings, rash. Allergic reaction.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group leader to be aware of existing medical conditions or allergies.</li> <li>Group to avoid long grass.</li> </ul>	2	3	6
Hitting Head	All	Bruises, head injuries, (contusions and concussion).	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants warned there is a high probability of striking their head within the route or when entering/exiting.</li> <li>All participants are to wear correctly fitted helmets (inspected by instructors) to minimise the effect of any bumps.</li> </ul>	3	2	6
Incorrectly Equipped	All	Cuts, bruises, grazes, broken bones	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors will only allow access to participants that have correctly fitted helmets, knee pads, have suitable clothing and no jewellery.</li> <li>Instructors will visually check that there is nothing that will restrict participants movement or that could catch/cause entrapment.</li> </ul>	1	3	3

## RISK ASSESSMENT: Tunnelling

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
Cuts and Splinters	All	Cuts and splinters	4	2	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants advised to be careful when going through tunnels and not to go too fast.</li> <li>First Aid Kit with instructor at all times (Splinters not to be removed).</li> </ul>	2	2	4
Entrapment/ Evacuation	All	Panic attack, Claustrophobia, pitches or limb stuck	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to immediately open all hatches (allowing as much air and light in as possible). Use an available light to light up the route passage and allow trapped participant to see the area around them.</li> <li>Instructors will ensure they are familiar with the inside layout (including emergency exits and emergency passageway) and will have undergone onsite training.</li> <li>Participants will be briefed on how to exit the route appropriately and how to best perform manoeuvres inside.</li> <li>All other participants will be instructed to vacate the tunnel by the closest exit.</li> </ul>	1	4	4
Participant Panic/ Claustrophobia	All	Panic attack	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to remain aware of participants location within the bus, so they can intervene to calm any participant who may be starting to panic before the situation escalates.</li> <li>Participants that previously say they are slightly scared at start of the session will be issued with a head torch.</li> <li>No part of the route is more than 5m from an emergency exit.</li> <li>Instructor to open the nearest emergency hatch and assist participants within the route.</li> <li>Instructor familiar with route layout, be comfortable with helping participants within confined spaces and have undergone site specific training.</li> <li>In extreme circumstances instructors may need to physically intervene to enable participants to get out.</li> <li>All participants to be informed about exit doors and how to leave the route safely.</li> </ul>	2	3	6

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