

## Risk Assessment for Adventure Forest Ltd T/as Go Ape! &/or Go Ape! EOT

**SUBJECT:** Buggy Building

**RISK ASSESSMENT REF:** BB/2026/V1

**WRITTEN BY:** Operations Team/Health and Safety Team

**REVIEWED BY:** Dave Daborn May 2026

**NEXT REVIEW:** January 2027









Risk Matrix								
Risk rating guidance	Likelihood (L)	5	5	10	15	20	25	Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR).
		4	4	8	12	16	20	
		3	3	6	9	12	15	
		2	2	4	6	8	10	
		1	1	2	3	4	5	
			1	2	3	4	5	
Severity (S)								
Acceptability of risk guidance	<b>High-risk: 15 – 25</b>		High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.					
	<b>Medium-risk: 8 – 12</b>		Medium-risks should only be tolerated for the short-term and only whilst further control measures to mitigate the risks are being planned and introduced.					
	<b>Low-risk: 1-6</b>		Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further.					
Guidance. When completing a risk assessment, you should:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards.</li> <li>2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity.</li> <li>3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level.</li> <li>4. Calculate a revised RR - you should consider how much safer the task will be if the control measures are followed. Here, you should consider changing both the likelihood (L) and the severity (S) ratings.</li> </ol>							
<b>Note.</b> Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as “low-risk”.								

Likelihood	Definition	Points rating
<b>Inevitable</b>	If the work continues as it is, there is almost 100% certainty that an accident will happen, for examples: A broken stair or broken rung on a ladder, Bare, exposed electrical conductors, Unstable stacks of heavy boxes	<b>5</b>
<b>Highly likely</b>	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	<b>4</b>
<b>Possible</b>	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	<b>3</b>
<b>Unlikely</b>	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	<b>2</b>
<b>Remote possibility</b>	There is really no risk present. Only under freak conditions could there be any possibility of an accident or illness. All reasonable precautions have been taken - This should be the normal state of the workplace.	<b>1</b>

Severity	Definition	Points rating
<b>Very high</b>	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction eg. fire, course/building collapse.	<b>5</b>
<b>High</b>	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Temporary disability causing injury (to member of the public, contractor or employees) or disease capable of keeping an employee off work for seven days or more and reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).	<b>3</b>
<b>Slight</b>	Minor injury (to member of the public, contractor or employee), which would allow the individual to continue work after first aid treatment on site or at a local surgery. The duration of the stoppage or treatment is such that the normal flow of work is not seriously interrupted.	<b>2</b>
<b>Nil</b>	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	<b>1</b>

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### Personal protective equipment (PPE) assessment

Type of PPE:								
	Head	Foot	Eye	Hand	Hearing	Hi-Visibility Vest	RPE	Fall Arrest

	HAZARD	L	S	RR	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES: Reviewed annually to formulate Risk Reduction Plan	L	S	RR
1	Manual Handling/ Dropping equipment – lower limb injuries or musculoskeletal injuries.	3	2	6	Participants, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety brief includes guidance around moving poles and barrels in pairs.</li> <li>Safety brief includes “lift with your knees”.</li> <li>Sites to risk assess moving the equipment from storage to the activity area.</li> </ul>		1	2	2
2	Entrapment of body parts	3	2	6	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to teach knot tying and construction techniques to ensure that the final buggy designs do not have any obvious entrapment risks.</li> <li>Instruction in safety brief to keep body parts out of areas they could get trapped while riding.</li> <li>Instruction to not wrap any rope around any body parts while riding the buggy.</li> <li>Safety brief says no one to be in front of the buggy while it’s in motion – Instructor supervision.</li> </ul>		1	2	2
3	Falling from buggy during race, musculoskeletal injuries.	3	3	9	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructions require that the buggy design has somewhere for the rider to sit, hold and place their feet.</li> <li>Instruction in safety brief to shout stop during the race if anyone is concerned, and everyone will stop.</li> <li>If anyone falls off the instructor will stop the activity to ensure correct behaviour.</li> </ul>		1	3	3

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4	Broken equipment – cuts, bruises, breaks.	2	2	4	Participants, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to check all equipment is in good condition while setting up the activity. Anything not fit for use to be removed and quarantined.</li> <li>First aid kit available close by. If the activity is not being held near the cabin then a first aid kit to be taken to the activity.</li> </ul>		1	2	2
5	Horseplay	4	2	8	Participants, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety brief to include “Only use the equipment for making the buggies, any inappropriate behaviour will end your activity”.</li> <li>Instructor (and supervising adults if present) to be vigilant of behaviour and incorrect use of equipment – ropes used as whips, barrels pushed around aggressively etc.</li> </ul>		2	2	4
6	Heatstroke, Hypothermia, Exposure	3	2	6	Participants, Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to confirm everyone is suitably dressed for the weather at the start of the session. If hot, ensure water is available, and offer options to rest and/or sit in the shade.</li> </ul>		1	2	2
7	Slips Trips and Falls	3	2	6	Participants, Spectators, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with the <i>Footwear Policy</i>, all participants to wear appropriate footwear – instructor to confirm at the start of the session.</li> <li>The activity takes place on an open, relatively flat, field area.</li> <li>Sites to highlight any site specific risks in their Site Specific Ground Games Risk Assessment.</li> <li>Instructor to highlight any hazards during the safety brief.</li> <li>Instructor to caution about slippery ground conditions if wet.</li> </ul>		2	2	4
8	Splinters and cuts from equipment.	2	1	2	Participants, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poles sanded before use to reduce splinters. The edge of the holes in the barrels also sanded down.</li> <li>Gloves recommended for staff and participants before the activity starts</li> </ul>		1	1	1

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9	Collision of buggy with other buggies or with the public	3	3	9	Participants, General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buggy route to be set out away from any members of the public. Instructor to intervene if anyone comes into the buggy building area. Safety brief to include not to collide with other buggies.</li> </ul>		1	3	3
10	Collision with surroundings (trees, fences etc)	3	3	9	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity to be set up in an area with minimal hazards. If any hazards are involved in the activity (e.g. going around trees as part of the route) instruction will be given to give them a wide berth.</li> </ul>		2	3	6
11	Incorrect safety briefing due to infrequent running of session	4	2	8	Participants, staff, spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The safety brief will be read off notes on a clipboard, like Ground Games, rather than being memorised and brief assessed as with other activities.</li> </ul>		1	2	2

**References:**

HSE Information Sheet Entertainment Sheet No 14

HSE 5 Steps to Risk assessment INDG 163

HSE A Guide to Risk Assessment requirements INDG 218

Control Measures. Where a control measure has been identified, it is only included once and not repeated under every subject. Therefore, for a specific hazard identified, a control measure noted above may apply to that hazard. (HSE RA guidance.)

Go Ape operational and training systems. These include the following: Go Ape Operations on how to run a Go Ape Activity, Go Ape Training Manual including training and assessment policy, Practical Session plans and online training and Go Ape Company Handbook.

Instructor Training. Go Ape staff must undertake relevant training and assessment programme specific to their role. They undergo training in accordance with the Go Ape Online Training Manual