

THE BARNSTONDALE CENTRE – ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENT – THE BLACK HOLE

Assessment Ref No:			ACT004		Area or Activity Assessed:	The Black Hole (climbing & abseiling)
Assessment Date:			24 Sep 25			
Person who may be affected by this activity			Staff, Visitors, Contractors, Service Users and anyone else who may physically come into contact with the business			
Ser	What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Pre-Control Risk Rating (likelihood x severity)	What are we doing/Controls required?	Action needed	Post-Control Risk Rating (likelihood x severity)
1	Unauthorised access	All Un- authorised users	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Black Hole entry points secured when activity is not supervised.All climbing equipment removed overnight and stored securely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regularly remind activity instructors on the importance of ensuring area is secureAt changeover of groups area never to be left unsupervised or unsecured	2x2=4
2	Slips, Trips and Falls	All users and instructors	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Instructors trained in basic first aid.Black Hole Area regularly maintained to restrict and slips and floor and wall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safety brief to include ‘no running in the areaTeacher/Leader/Instructor from the participant group to be with the group at all times for crowd control and discipline.	2x2=4
4	Equipment Failure	Anyone climbing, belaying or anyone in activity area	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visual check prior to every use throughout the day by session instructors.Periodical checks by competent person with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Equipment retired and disposed of at the end of its manufacturer stated life or when wear and tear makes it unsafe, as per manufacture guidelines.	2x2=4

				documentation complete and held on file.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log kept all equipment in use and in reserve, identified by serial number. 	
5	Falls from height	Climbers	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants must wear helmets and harnesses which are properly fitted and checked by an instructor. Several checks of equipment must be made with the final check occurring just before climb takes place. Further Check of equipment when climber gets to top of wall before being lowered into black hole area. Participants tied into appropriate rope and belay system. Anchor points checked annually by external competent company. Belay system and anchor points set up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to manually & visually check rope and belay system for each climb. Instructor to ensure black hole area and landing is safe and free from any obstructions. 	2x2=4
7	Incorrect use of equipment – Including PPE and belay devices	All climbing, belaying or in contact with rope, as well as anyone close to those people.	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone belaying must be appropriately trained and supervised by a competent person qualified to do so. All climbers have their PPE and knots checked by the instructor before climbing. Anyone belaying must be trained in how to do so safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity leader to provide appropriate supervision for the group. 	2x2=4

				and qualified or supervised in how to do so.		
8	Participant Lack of Knowledge	Climbers and Belayers	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Talk carried out by instructor before starting black hole activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead instructor to take ultimate responsibility for safety during the session. Instructor to determine competency of the group at the start of the session. Instructor to explicitly highlight safe areas (sports hall floor) and danger areas (top of climbing wall), as well as, when and where safety equipment (helmets) must be worn. No Person to climb until their equipment has been checked and they are connected into the safety rope. 	2x2=4

Risk Rating

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	High-risk: 15 – 25		High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.					
	Medium-risk: 8 – 12		Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented.					
	Low-risk: 1-6		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">1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards.2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity.3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level.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.							
Note. Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as “low-risk”.								

Likelihood	Definition	Points rating
Inevitable	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	5
Highly likely	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	4
Possible	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	3
Unlikely	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	2
Remote possibility	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.	1

Severity	Definition	Points rating
Very high	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction eg. fire, course/building collapse.	5
High	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	4
Moderate	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).	3
Slight	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.	2
Nil	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	1

Document Control (Amendments)

DATE	AMENDMENT(S)	AGREED BY
05 Oct 21	Whole Document	Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)
13 Nov 23	Whole Document	Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)
13 Nov 24	Whole Document	Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)
24 Sep 25	Whole Document	Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)