

Tree climbing Risk Assessment

Activity Tree Climbing

What are the hazards?

- Unauthorized Use
- Vandalism
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Falls from height
- Items falling from height
- Adverse weather conditions
- Human error, inappropriate use of equipment.
- Ladders slipping
- Rope burns
- Tree impact injuries

Who is at risk?

Staff, participants and members of the public.

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Unauthorized use leading to falls from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one tracer per tree will be left out • All PPE and other equipment will be locked in the high ropes compound shed over night 	LOW	LOW
Vandalism or weather damage leading to the tree becoming unstable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual check of tree prior to the session commencing • Annual inspection by an arborcultureist • Dead wood cleared annually 	LOW	LOW
Slips trips and falls from debris and equipment under tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area under the tree will be managed to minimise trip hazards, the area will be wood chipped if required and any branches, roots or other debris will be moved if possible before the session. Bushes/low vegetation will be cut back to allow access to the area under the tree but this must be done sympathetically • Equipment to be laid out neatly as trained and a tidy site managed throughout the activity 	LOW	LOW
Falls from height due to poor instruction/ understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors assessed to NPTC Unit 38, Tree climbing and Arial rescue or another qualification approved by CI and Director of Avon Tyrrell • Qualified instructors refreshed in techniques every 12 months internally • Instructor to follow training 	LOW	LOW
Falls from height from faulty equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment checked at the time of purchase 	LOW	LOW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment checked before use, and regularly inspected and recorded on Papertrail All equipment that is questionable in regards to integrity and in line with how the manufacturer recommendations, is removed from active use and checked by the SI or the CI or is sent off for an external opinion or is replaced as appropriate. 		
Falls from height due to the techniques taught not being understood / forgotten/ human error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor will provide a clear demonstration of all the required techniques Participants will demonstrate competence before ascending the rope Only the instructor is allowed to remove the ascender At the point of lowering, the instructor on the ground will assist with speed control. Participants are not allowed to climb above the top anchor point There will be a second prussic attach to a rope halo at the base of the tree acting as a back-up if a participant has an issue with their prussic. 	LOW	LOW
Items falling from height causing injury to the people below the tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything must be removed from the pockets Shoes must be securely fitting. Helmets worn by all participants, unless in designated safe zone. All trees used for this session will be inspected annually by an arboriculturist When necessary the tree will be dead wooded When dropping dead wood no one may stand under tree. 	LOW	LOW
Strong winds causing people to swing into other people and the tree resulting in impact injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session stopped in high winds at the decision of the instructor based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind direction Wind speed Group Tree movement After high winds the tree will be checked for damages 	LOW	LOW
The ladder slipping leading to injuries from falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a ladder is used it must be secured if possible or footed by another instructor on its first use 	LOW	LOW
Rope burns from releasing the Prussic while descending the rope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the training and demonstration phase of the introduction clients are to be made aware of: 	LOW	LOW

