

Zip Wire Risk Assessment

Activity: Zip Wire Activity Session

What are the hazards?

- Working at height
- Trips, slips and falls
- Proximity to water
- Participants at height
- Equipment failure
- Unauthorised use
- Human error
- Vehicle related injuries
- Branches etc. falling

Who is at risk?

Staff, participants and members of the public

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Instructor accessing, Clients at height. Human error, Unauthorised use and Vandalism all leading to falls from height, equipment failure etc. resulting in physical injuries, fractures, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All instructors competent and qualified to deliver the activity once assessed by an external assessor and are familiar with emergency procedures. • Annual updates. • All zip wire staff are first aid trained. • All equipment is checked regularly in line with Avon Tyrrell’s safety checking schedule. • All equipment will be visually checked prior to session commencement. • Annual inspection by professional outside company. • All equipment fitted to individual participants and checked prior to ascent including harnesses and helmets. • Safety systems in use for all aspects of the zip wire experience from ascent to descent. • Instructors will get their PPE checked by another qualified instructor before accessing. • Instructor safety is via Cabloc, cows tails and Grillon • Two instructors on all sessions with the instructor running the platform fully 	LOW	LOW

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<p>trained and assessed in rescue techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid kit and radio at the activity base. • All equipment suited to the purpose • All equipment removed or secured when the activity base is not in use. • Ladder locked away when not in use. • Access staples start approximately nine feet up the tree, so access is extremely difficult without the ladder. • Staff monitored on formal observation sessions and also during informal walkabouts. • Feedback given by appropriately qualified senior staff • Staff trained internally on how to access the wire safely 		
<p>Proximity to water Hypothermia, drowning and Weils disease</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overwater rescues are highly unlikely but all instructors are trained to perform these and safety equipment to complete this rescue must be kept at the activity base when this activity is in use. • Life rings and warning signs around the edge of the lake • Group leaders must be present on every session and they must remain in charge of group control and discipline. • Groups given a thorough briefing prior to the activity and possible dangers pointed out. • Hand washing encouraged at the end of the session. 	<p>LOW</p>	<p>LOW</p>
<p>Vehicle related injuries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation in-group control by group leaders. • Access to the lake is restricted • Speed restriction posted 	<p>LOW</p>	<p>LOW</p>
<p>Cuts from wires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves are available from the workshop and there are trolleys for descending the wire for inspection or rescue purposes. 	<p>LOW</p>	<p>LOW</p>

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are attached in such a way that they hang well beneath the wire. 		
Entrapment in the ropes or hitting the landing platform at speed resulting in impact injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before participants are released from the belay system and pole a shout of "clear" must be made to the bottom instructor who is responsible for checking that the brakes are correctly set. Only once this command has been reciprocated is the person able to leave the pole and descend the zip wire. All instructors assessed external assessor and are familiar with emergency procedures. 	LOW	LOW
Rope burn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves to be available for instructors accessing/inspecting Instructor control and awareness. Only instructors are to be involved in the braking system 	LOW	LOW
Slips, trips and falls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good instructor awareness and briefing. Help in group control from group leaders. 	LOW	LOW
Human error – groups not listening to briefings and missing vital information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full co-operation from group leaders in group control and discipline. Clear instructor briefing Good instructor awareness 	LOW	LOW
Participants accessing the pole with improper fitting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff taught during ropes training course how to fit equipment Instructor checks kit about starting the zip wire. Ongoing monitoring of staff 	LOW	LOW

Reference to other manuals assessments:

- AAIAC the UK ropes course guide
- [UK Youth Health and Safety policy](#)

Reviewed May 2019 by Chief Instructor

Approved by Director of Avon Tyrrell & Operations

Next review May 2020