



Caving – Risk Assessment

The risk assessment ratings for each identified hazard, the score for the likelihood of its happening is multiplied by the score of the severity of the injury.

(For example, likelihood 2 multiplied by Severity 5 = 10 medium).

The Risk assessment is to identify hazards, value the risk and the potential harm and whom to. Have an action plan to prevent the risk and a final risk value.

Hazard	Who	Existing Risk Value	Action to prevent	New Risk Value
Slips, Trips & Falls	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. No running in the compound. Helmets to be worn when inside the Caving system. Not allowed on top of caving system. Being aware of surroundings. Trip hazards to be made clear. Appropriate clothing and footwear to be worn.	2*5=10 Med
Failure of equipment	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	Equipment is tested and inspected at manufacturing. A bi-weekly inspection is done by qualified/trained staff. Before/During use inspection done by instructor. PPE to be worn as appropriate.	2*5=10 Med
Failure of structure	Participants Instructors Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Structure manufactured with steel bars and mesh to stop collapsing. A bi-weekly inspection is done by qualified/trained staff. Before/During use inspection done by instructor. Helmets to be worn when inside the Caving system.	1*5=5 Low
Entrapment	Participants Instructors Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Jewellery/hats/scarfs removed from participants Exploring techniques given by instructors Buddy system used for participants Instructors assessed on rescue ability inside the cave	2*5=10 Med
Behavioural Problems	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. Yellow/red card system. Ratio's 12:1 maximum. Group leader must be present to control group behaviour. Site behavioural policy.	2*5=10 Med
Wildlife	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	No food permitted in the compound. Compound checked before/during use. Allergies (controlled by group leader) Pest control where appropriate.	1*5=5 Low
Weather	Participants Leaders Instructors	5*5=25 High	Activity not to be used in lightning weather. No running in the compound. Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. Appropriate lighting when required.	1*5=5 Low
Environment	Participants Leaders Instructors	5*5=25 High	Floor covering appropriate for use. Any hazards on floor remove. Activity designed and built so little or no stagnant waters may occur.	1*5=5 Low
Covid-19 Instructor Contact (Positive)	Participants Leaders Instructors	5*5=25 High	1m distance when instructing Where not possible, face masks to be worn	5*2=10 Med

Covid-19 General Contact/Arrival			Removed	
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This risk assessment is written in accordance with the operating process and procedures.

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Reviewed by: Stuart Whythe

Position: Deputy Centre Manager / Programmes Manager

Date: 01/2024

Qualification: Health and safety Level 2
Risk Assessment CPD

Likelihood of Occurrence	Severity of Harm
0 = Never	0 = No Harm
1 = Unlikely	1 = Bumps & Bruises
2 = Possible	2 = Small Cuts & Lacerations
3 = A chance	3 = Broken/Fracture of Bones
4 = Likely	4 = Loss of limb
5 = Certain	5 = Fatality

		Severity				
		*	1	2	3	4
Likelihood	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25

Levels of Acceptance	
1-6 Low	= Acceptable
7-10 Medium	= Monitor
11-12 medium	= Re-evaluate
13-25 High	= Not acceptable