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| **DESCRIPTION OF TASK / ACTIVITY** | **Abseiling**  This generic Risk Assessment should be used as a basis for preparing an event specific Risk Assessment.  It sets out general hazards and control measures for an excursion with climbing as an activity. It covers common risks for abseiling on natural crags and man-made climbing walls.  Elements may be removed if they are not applicable and additional elements may be added to address specific hazards of an excursion, activity or participants’ needs.  It is the responsibility of the Head of Establishment / Visit Leader to prepare a Risk Assessment that recognises these general hazards and provides adequate details of the hazards and control measures of their specific excursion. |
| **LOCATION** |  |

| **Item** | **What are the hazards?** | **What are you already doing, i.e. what Control Measures are already in place?** | **Anything else you need to do to manage this risk?** | **Action by whom?** | **Action by when?** | **Done** |
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| 1 | Inappropriate activity plan | * Supervisors and Instructors will hold appropriate qualifications for the route and/or activity * Supervisors/Instructors will be familiar with the venue * Supervisors will hold an appropriate First Aid qualification * Supervision ratios will be a maximum of 1:6 * Group members will be appropriately trained and prepared for the planned activities * Location and activities have been planned to suit the abilities and needs of individual group members | In preparing excursion specific Risk Assessment you would add details of supervisor’s qualifications  Is the supervisor familiar with the crag or climbing wall?  Does supervisor need to do a physical assessment of the venue to ensure it is appropriate for this group?  Route choice must be appropriate and instructors should use a progressive approach to present the group with a suitable challenge  Supervision ratios may need to increase to meet individual needs |  |  |  |
| 2 | Inadequate or faulty equipment | * Appropriate personal protective equipment will be used * Leaders will visually check equipment at time of issue * If participants are using their own equipment the leader will ensure it is serviceable and suitable for the expected conditions and nature of the activity * Leaders will check that participants have appropriate clothing and equipment * Leaders will make a final check of equipment prior to the activity starting, ensuring that it is correctly fitted and that all participants are adequately clothed and equipped | Activities may have to be adjusted or curtailed if participants have inadequate clothing or equipment  Consider including the following:  PPE (helmets , harnesses and ropes) are subject to regular checks  Helmets are to be worn by all participants, instructors and accompanying adults in accordance with best practice during climbing activities |  |  |  |
| 3 | Slips and Falls | * Supervisors are experienced in local conditions and will be trained to NGB or Moray Council standards in group management, instructional techniques and emergency procedures * Venue and routes have been chosen taking account of the nature of the activity, the ability level of the group, forecast weather conditions and possible tide times * Participants will be briefed on hazards specific to the area, including safe waiting areas and routes to the top of the crag or wall. * Participants will be instructed in the skills and techniques of using an abseil * Leaders will ensure that safety equipment appropriate for the activity and is carried * The team will carry an emergency shelter suitable for the entire party * A system for dealing with incidents will be in place, including effective channels of communication, a base contact and late back procedure | This may include  Supervisors to be aware of individual needs and abilities  Supervisors must have pre-planned alternate routes if participants are unable to continue  Parts of the route may require close supervision of the group or individuals |  |  |  |
| 4 | Falls from height | * Appropriate supervision of participants when around the top of the crag * Participants will be briefed on climbing and belaying techniques * Belayers will be closely supervised, with back up belaying used where appropriate * Participants will be briefed on safe waiting areas when not engaged in the abseil. * Safe routes to/from the top and bottom of the abseil to be briefed * Participants should be supervised whilst waiting for their turn on the abseil | Consider ways of keeping participants engaged whilst not actively engaged in the abseil |  |  |  |
| 5 | Items falling from above | * Helmets to be worn by all participants, instructors and accompanying adults when at the base of the crag or during climbing * All participants should be briefed on the danger of Drops Hazards * Participants will be briefed on safe waiting areas when not engaged in the abseil. |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Crag-fast climber | * Appropriate route choice by instructors * Supervisors and Instructors will hold appropriate qualifications for the route and/or activity |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Friction device Entrapment | * Clothing checks prior to climbing to prevent participants climbing or belaying with loose items that could become tangled * Long hair to be tied back or tucked in * Supervisors and Instructors will hold appropriate qualifications for the route and/or activity |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Site specific hazards | * Supervisors/instructors to brief group on how to access the crag and the route for descent * Safe seating and waiting area will be set up | Consider adding:  Participants may need supervising at waiting area  Instructors should set up safe systems whilst rigging or de-rigging climbing equipment |  |  |  |
| 9 | Remote Location - Delayed access to medical assistance | * Supervisors have appropriate First Aid qualifications for the planned route * Appropriate first aid equipment will be carried by the supervisor and the group * Group members have be briefed on the actions to take in the event of an incident or emergency * A system for dealing with incidents will be in place, including effective channels of communication, a base contact and late back procedure |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Weather  Current weather conditions  Rapid changes to conditions  Changes to ground conditions | * Supervisors will obtain information on weather and other relevant factors and make an assessment of conditions prior to the start of the activity * Leaders will ensure that each participant is appropriately clothed, carries sufficient food and that additional food, clothing and equipment is available to suit the expected conditions and nature of the activity * Leaders will be First Aid trained to the level required by the NGB or Moray Council (whichever is higher) * Group members will be trained to recognise early signs of hyperthermia or heat exhaustion and carry out the appropriate actions * Supervisors will modify or curtail the activity if prevailing conditions are inappropriate for the group or the planned activity | Consider needs of individual group members with additional support needs  Consider pre-planned wet weather routes |  |  |  |
| 9 | Pre-existing medical conditions | * Parents must complete consent and medical information forms * Supervisors must familiarise themselves with any pre-existing medical conditions * Leaders will be First Aid trained to the level required by the NGB or Moray Council (whichever is higher) * Group members are to briefed on appropriate First Aid for possible medical conditions * All staff and group members to be briefed on the location and use of any inhalers or auto-injectors carried by members of the group | Consider adding details of any pre-existing medical conditions |  |  |  |
| 10 | Traffic | * Group members will be briefed on the correct techniques for walking on or crossing public roads * Supervision plans must consider using direct supervision when group are on or near public or private roads | Can be deleted if there is no road crossing required |  |  |  |
| 11 | Insect and animal bites and stings | * Group members must be briefed on potential hazards, safety precautions and appropriate First Aid, including Ticks and Lime’s disease, insect stings and adder bites | Dependent on the route, consider also including hazards and precautions for drinking water from natural sources |  |  |  |
| 12 | Inappropriate behaviour | * Code of conduct agreed with all group members prior to the expedition | Consider adding details for supporting specific individuals |  |  |  |
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| **Prepared by:** | |  | **Date:** |  | | |
| **Date for review:** |  | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **Checked and Approved by:** | |  | **Date:** |  | | |