

River Rescue Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	River Rescue, Blair Atholl Jamborette, River Tilt from Old Blair to the swimming pool. Saturday 13th July - Friday 26th July.	Date of risk assessment	01/07/2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Neil Murray, Scott Grattan
		Date of next review	01/07/2026		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Moving within watercourse: Drowning	All Participants Activity Staff	PPE to be worn by all participants (helmet, Buoyancy aid) and checked for fit by activity staff prior to entering water Buoyancy aids to be float tested at start of camp prior to activities commencing- all PFDs that fail test to be quarantined from use by activity leaders Party to be kept in one group for vision by all activity leaders Rescue equipment to be carried by activity leaders No more than 12 participants per group. Activity leaders to check the participants swimming confidence and make appropriate safety procedures to prevent drowning or near misses Weak swimmers should be distinguishable from the other participants by use of helmet markers e.g. coloured duct tape PPE equipment will be given a visual inspection at the start of camp and after each session by activity leaders- where defects such as cracks, tears, missing buckles are present then these items are to be removed from use and quarantined. Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Leaders before activity commences.	
Moving within watercourse: Slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	Full length wetsuit, footwear with good ankle support (boots/trainers), socks and helmet to be worn to provide protection. Three points of contact on the ground when scrambling. Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Leaders before activity commences Safest path and techniques on how to move/climb are coached throughout the session by activity leaders. Where required, hand lines will be installed at access and egress points to allow for safer access and egress by activity leaders Prior to activities commencing, gorge to be visited by activity leaders and any obstacles along walking routes to be removed/ made safe prior to use by participants.	
Moving within watercourse: Swept away	All Participants Activity Staff	Team Leaders will agree unsafe water levels at the start of camp prior to activity sessions commencing and feed this back to all activity leaders. Water levels to be checked prior to each activity session by team leaders Activity to be cancelled if water levels are at unsafe level Downstream spotters with throw lines to be utilised if the situation requires Activity Leaders to carry throw lines and be trained in their use to allow for rescues to be undertaken.	

River Rescue Risk Assessment

Moving within watercourse: Hypothermia	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Full wetsuits to be worn.</p> <p>Time spent stationary in water to be kept to a minimum and the group should aim to have continual movement.</p> <p>Vision to be kept on all participants for signs of cooling.</p> <p>Participants should be asked regularly if they are warm enough by activity leaders and to be encouraged to alert activity leaders if they start to get cold.</p> <p>Emergency blankets to be carried in group safety equipment</p> <p>Group shelters to be carried within group equipment</p>	
Underwater Debris: Foot entrapment injury	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Full wetsuits to be worn if possible</p> <p>All watercourses to be checked and cleared, where possible, of debris at start of camp prior to any activity sessions being run</p> <p>Activity leader to always be at front of group to identify any new hazards</p> <p>Defensive swimming techniques to be employed where possible when moving down a watercourse.</p>	
Wet Weather Event: Change in water course levels	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Team leaders to check weather forecast before each activity day</p> <p>Activity leaders to be aware of safe water level</p> <p>Activity leaders to be aware of established escape routes from watercourse- these will be agreed and tested at start of camp during leader familiarisation sessions at all venues.</p> <p>Water levels to be checked prior to each activity session by activity leaders</p> <p>Activity to be cancelled by team leader if water levels are at an unsafe level</p>	
Hot Weather Event: Heat exhaustion	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Bottled water to be carried by activity leaders as party of safety equipment</p> <p>Vision to be kept on all party members for signs of overheating</p> <p>Participants should be asked regularly if they are too warm and to be encouraged to alert activity leaders if they start to become overheated.</p> <p>Minibus to be used where possible to move between locations to prevent excess walking</p>	
Existing environment: dislodged 'debris' by others or natural causes, falling objects.	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Helmets to be worn in case of rocks being dislodged or branches being broken.</p> <p>Walk through of watercourse by activity leaders prior to event to identify areas of loose debris and these should be cleared or highlighted to all members of the team to be aware off and where possible alternative routes agreed</p> <p>Walk through the watercourse by activity leaders prior to the event to remove any possible loose overhanging branches.</p> <p>Loose rocks to be removed by activity leaders from egress route underneath road bridge at end of gorge prior to group activities commencing</p> <p>Activity leaders should highlight any change in the existing environment that is noticed between sessions to ensure all groups are made aware and the conditions can be monitored.</p>	
Waterborne diseases / contaminated water: Weil's disease, Cryptosporidium Illness	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Good hygiene is to be encouraged by activity team and all participants should wash hands thoroughly after session</p> <p>Route to be checked by activity team for any obvious signs of contamination including carcasses, areas of agricultural run off (cow/sheep fields)</p> <p>Participants to be informed during safety briefing about avoiding swallowing any river water.</p>	
Severity of Route: Strain / repetition, stress / fatigue	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Easy access routes to and from watercourse are identified</p> <p>Routes to be walked by activity team prior to event to ensure they are suitable</p> <p>Route through watercourse to be trialled prior to participants taking part</p>	
Jumping from height: Striking ground whilst jumping	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Activity leaders to inform participants of correct jump posture and procedure during safety briefing</p> <p>Ensure jump is safe eg distance, depth, height of jump etc</p>	

River Rescue Risk Assessment

		<p>Only allow confident jumpers of larger jumps and base this on the smaller jumps at the start of the route.</p> <p>Pools at bottom of jumps to be checked for debris prior to use by activity leaders</p> <p>Jumpers only jump under instruction from the leader and when the last jumper is clear from the jump zone.</p>	
Access to the river: Slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Access/egress will be well marked from both entrance/exit route to the gorge</p> <p>Where steep ground is present, hand lines to be installed prior to event</p> <p>Debris along access/ egress routes to be cleared prior to event</p>	
Public Interface: Public interference, other canyon groups	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Distance should be maintained between our activity group and any other groups undertaking activities in the watercourse.</p> <p>Team leader to coordinate any passage between different groups at a safe location.</p> <p>Briefings and instructions to be given when clear of public to avoid interference</p> <p>Activity leaders to be vigilant of the public in and around groups.</p>	
Travel to start / finish point: Being hit by car, road traffic collision	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Access to gorge is by walking directly from site</p> <p>Footpath to be used at all times and groups should walk single file on the side of the path furthest from the flow of traffic.</p> <p>Where path is not present, participants walk at the side of the road with one activity leader at the front and one at the rear.</p>	
Communication: Non English speakers not understanding instructions	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Additional time should be taken with non english speakers during safety briefs to ensure they understand instructions.</p> <p>Where possible, a more confident English speaker can translate to other participants.</p> <p>Where possible, actions and visual aids should be used by activity staff during briefings.</p>	
Communication: Lack of phone signal, communication breakdown	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Camp emergency procedure will be received at start of camp and should be briefed to all activity leaders by team leader</p> <p>Laminated copy of emergency procedure should be held within group equipment.</p> <p>Laminated copy of key contact information for camp should be held within group equipment</p> <p>During an emergency event, team leaders coordinate response and be key contact.</p> <p>Prior to activities commencing, a nominated location is to be checked at the venue for where phone signal is present- this location is to be utilised if phone signal cannot be achieved within the gorge.</p> <p>Each group should have 1 mobile phone carried by the team leader and at least 1 other phone carried by an activity leader.</p>	
Accessibility of Emergency Exit: poor access to incident	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Emergency exit routes to be identified and briefed to all activity team prior to event</p> <p>If moving casualty is deemed too dangerous/ not possible, emergency services will be contacted.</p> <p>Cards identifying key details including gorge details/ address/ postcode/ grid reference etc. to be carried in group equipment.</p>	
Incident within gorge or canyon: injury to participant, rescue required	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>During an emergency event, the team leader will coordinate response and be key contact.</p> <p>Emergency kit is to be carried which includes as a minimum- climbing rope, knife, first aid kit, medical shears, sam splint, water, emergency blanket, mobile phone, laminated copies of key contact and emergency procedure information,</p> <p>Medication required by participants will be collected at the start of session by the activity team and placed within a waterproof case in an emergency bag to be taken into the canyon.</p> <p>Each group will have a minimum 2no. leaders (including team leader) trained and competent in water safety e.g. WRT Technician/ Swift Water Rescue.</p>	

RE-ASSESS ON THE DAY WITH A 'DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT' - [Home contact to be arranged and dedicated First Aider to be present]

FIRST AID LOCATION IS: Perth Royal Infirmary ON: 01738 623311