

**Adventure Southland Limited**  
**RISK ANALYSIS AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**ACTIVITY: Abseiling**

**SECTION A**

**“Significant refers to the potential for any harm that is not trivial and would warrant a response or intervention”**

RISK	HAZARD OR HARM	POSSIBLE OUTCOME (PERIL)	SIGNIFICANT	ACTION	DOES ACTION ELIMINATE, ISOLATE OR MINIMISE RISK?
Physical	Anchors not adequate Equipment failure Rope fails due to being cut on edge Improper attachments points waist harness to chest harness	Death by falling	Yes	Boundaries set and enforced. Possible anchor set- ups (solid, equalised and no extension). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three natural pro placements in solid rock.</li> <li>• Two bolts.</li> <li>• Two well rooted living trees of thigh thickness.</li> <li>• One well rooted living tree waist thickness.</li> <li>• Fixed steel pole on camp sites</li> <li>• Two independent wire systems</li> </ul> Instructor to check all equipment before use, including quick rope check. Instructor to check each participant before they abseil, including a plus a flight check “sign off” by instructor if supervising the programme.. Always protect rope from sharp edges using rope protector and keep focal point in space away from rock. Demonstrate correct safety line technique. Instructor to clip in to solid anchor if exposed to a fall from top of crag.	Minimise
	Falling rocks Improper participant behaviour Unrestrained long hair Loose clothing	Physical injury	Yes	Check and clear any loose rock during set up and ensure helmets are worn at all times in climbing area. Well explained briefing before abseiling and instructor in position to intervene if necessary at any time. Ensure all long hair is tied up. Ensure any loose clothing is away from all equipment that a rope runs through.	Minimise

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Physical	Not wearing appropriate footwear	Injury to feet while descending	No	All participants to wear lace up and supportive footwear.	Minimise
	Instructor leaves bottom of crag to set up abseil	Unsupervised participants wandering off/lost/injured (esp. During set up of abseil site).	Yes	Instructor briefs on boundaries Activity provided to fill in the unsupervised time. Instructor maintains contact with group.	Minimise
	Participants not equipped for hot or cold weather	Heat / cold problems with participants	Yes	Have appropriate aids available for the weather conditions expected – water, sunscreen, hot drinks flask, emergency shelters, and spare clothes.	Minimise
Emotional	Instructor (or other supervisor) forces participation Inadequate supervision	Emotional damage through being forced to participate or fear of heights	No	Ensure there is a variety in level of challenge, i.e. route selection is appropriate for each participant. Use suitable progression. “Challenge by Choice” policy used; talk to participants about goals. Activity pitched at participants levels. Instructor coaches participants as required.	Minimise

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Social Cultural	Abseiling on site that has cultural significances without the knowledge and thus offending landowners or custodians.	Damage to culturally significant site	Yes	Abseil on approved crags only.	Eliminate
	High use areas / upsetting local Maori or landowners; no permission.	Conflict with other users / local Maori or landowners	No	Brief on respect for other users / access; seek permission if required for good relations.	Minimise
Financial	Instructor (or other supervisor) forces participation Inadequate supervision	Damage / loss of equipment	No	Brief on correct techniques and safety and correct use of gear. Instructor to check site before leaving. Equipment to be used within manufactures and Adventure Southland recommendations.	Minimise
Environmental	Trees used as anchors. Retrieving the rope wrapped around a tree.	Damage to trees and anchor points.	No	Protect all trees from ropes. Avoid pulling ropes down that have been wrapping around trees as anchors. Use minimal environmental impact practices when choosing anchor point.	Minimise
	Participants and wildlife together in close proximity	Damage to environment / wildlife	No	Remind all clients to remain clear of wildlife – respect their habitat and their space. Minimum impact / environmental education / instructor checks area for rubbish.	Minimise

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SECTION A

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Should loss occur, what will you need to have in place to minimise the loss?	Emergency Instructor first aid trained. Instructor to carry spare karabiners, prusiks, belay device, knife. First Aid kit, radio, shelter, hot drink, and food carried. Intentions logged. Instructor competent in top rope rescues.
IMPORTANT! This RAMS form is not complete unless attached to Section B and signed off by Manager	

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**SECTION B**

INDUSTRY STANDARDS	POLICES / GUIDELINES	STAFF SKILLS	OFFICIAL APPROVAL	
Syllabus: NZOIA Rock Leader or higher. Skills Active National Certificate in Outdoor Recreation Instruction – Climbing. Alpine Guide. Outdoor Activities: Guidelines for leaders (2009). EOTC Guidelines (2009)	Helmets to be worn at all times unless in a designated safe area. ‘Challenge by Choice’ philosophy to operate. Back up belayer to be used at all time. Private land owners must be contacted to request access. Instructor to supervise a maximum of ten participants and two accompanying adults with a maximum of four top rope set ups. Participants must not boulder or solo higher than 1.6 metres off the ground.	NZOIA Rock 1 First Aid Qualified In House Competency ‘Sign off’	<b>SECTION A Checklist</b>	
			No. Of sheets checked	5
			Risk	✓
			Hazard/harm	✓
			Outcome	✓
			Severity	✓
			Action	✓
			Eliminate, isolate or minimise	✓
			Emergency	✓
			<b>SECTION B Checklist</b>	
			Industry standards	✓
			Policies and guidelines	✓
			Staff skills	✓
			Approved:	Not Approved:
			Name: Amy Sutherland Position: Programme Manager Date:	
This activity is not officially sanctioned until this box is completed by Manager and attached to section A				

Name:

Date of Review:

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