



FRYLANDS WOOD SCOUT OUTDOOR CENTRE

Mobile Climbing Wall Risk Assessment

Activity: MOBILE CLIMBING WALL		Reviewed By: Barry Goswell					Updated: Apr 2023		
Reviewed if methods change and/or after incidents, NOT reviewed annually									
Activity/Hazard	Who is at risk	Before Control Measures			Control Measures	After Control Measures			
		Likelihood 1-3	Severity 1-3	Risk Rating	Please see Generic Site Risk Assessment for explanation of risk ratings	Likelihood 1-3	Severity 1-3	Risk Rating	
Accidents and First Aid									
Instructor Qualifications	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead instructor to have the relevant qualifications, training & sign offs, as detailed in the activity training requirements grid For self-led sessions, if not on file already, you must show a valid wall specific Training Certificate and Permit to the Duty Manager or at the office and sign the related Conditions of Use Lead instructor/own instructor must be 18 years old or over Instructors must be aware of this Risk Assessment & the Generic Site RA 	1	3	3	
Previous or current Medical injury\condition	Users	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that participants have no injuries or suffer with back/neck or heart problems Ensure no one has internal organ complaints that will be affected by the activity Anyone who feels unwell, suffering from the effects of drugs/alcohol or pregnancy must not take part Safety sign to be prominently displayed. 	1	1	1	
First Aid required	Staff, users, other site users	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group is responsible for having their own First Aid kit If run by Frylands Wood instructor, they should carry a First Aid kit 	1	1	1	

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff on site are first aid trained and large First Aid kits are available at Reception, Providore & Crew Hut • All staff aware of site emergency plan and carry a site radio 			
Injury due to personal belongings or being hit by falling objects	Staff, users & other site users	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the participants do not have any personal items such as phones or keys in their pockets • Glasses should be removed if possible but depends on the level of visual impairment 	1	1	1
Being hit by falling objects or descending climbers	Staff, users & other site users	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectators & waiting climbers to stand behind the fall zone in a separate waiting area until a belay route becomes available & they are called forward by an instructor 	1	1	1
Failure of equipment – All climbing equipment	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific pre-use checks stipulated by the wall manufacturer & must be completed & recorded on the check sheet • Checks are completed daily but only when tower is in use • Checks should be done more than once a day if there is a long gap between sessions and/or is circumstance change e.g. the wall is moved or large changes in temperature • All equipment should be checked for obvious faults during and after each session • Any damage should be reported to the Duty Manager & the equipment should not be used until inspected, repaired & deemed safe • All equipment has a detailed inspection monthly & results logged • Annual Service, “Swaps” & full ADIPS inspection by an UK external companies • ONLY qualified & signed off staff/ crew will operate the tower during set up/ pack down 	1	3	3
Failure of equipment – Harnesses	Users	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief all participants on correct fitting of harnesses in safety talk 	1	3	3

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three sizes of harnesses are available & users must fit safely into one of the three options • Ensure Final Safety Checks (FSCs) are completed on each climber after clipping into belay system before the climber starts climbing • Full PPE inspection every 6 months by a competent person & results logged 			
Equipment failure – Carabiners	All Users	1	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Final Safety Checks (FSCs) are completed after each climber clipped into belay system • Inspected by a competent person before every session, 6 monthly and yearly PPE inspections 	1	3	3
Stuck Climber – Auto-belay Jam	User	1	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the rare event of an auto-belay jam, all other participants should descend & unclip • Immediately inform the Duty Manager for assistance • Initially an instructor should check for Jams or stuck items in the rear of the tower where the working parts are. • You should try and pull down on the stuck cable. • An instructor should climb up to the stuck participant whilst clipped in & take a spare line to the stuck climber • The stuck climber should be attached to the spare line first, then released from the jammed line & continue their descent • A ladder will be kept in the climbing tower compound to assist with rescues if required • If the ladder is used, someone should foot the ladder & the person climbing the ladder should be clipped into a spare line 	1	2	2
Stuck Climber - Physical	Users	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users weighing less than 3 stone (18 kgs) might not be heavy enough to make the 	2	1	2

					<p>hydraulic auto belay descend so they can only use the wall if a rope is attached to their harness so they can be pulled down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •One instructor should always be harnessed up ready to go up the auto belay system route next to stuck climber in case of emergency •Talk to the Climber and tell them to turn around and hold onto the wall and climb back up •A ladder will be kept in the climbing tower compound to assist with rescues if required •If the ladder is used, someone should foot the ladder & the person climbing the ladder should be clipped into a spare line 			
Stuck Climber – Mental	Users	3	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reassure Climber and talk them into holding coloured hose on cable down to bring them down to ground level •One Instructor to always be harnessed up ready to go up the auto belay system route next to stuck climber in case of emergency •Instructor should be able to climb the wall to get eye level with the climber and talk to build confidence on letting go of the wall •A ladder will be kept in the climbing tower compound to assist with rescues if required •If the ladder is used, someone should foot the ladder & the person climbing the ladder should be clipped into a spare line 	2	1	3
Weather	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Erect with the climbing side of wall facing into the wind & reposition if required •Use anemometer to check wind speed & do not allow users to climb if above 25 mph •If wind exceeds 30 mph, then the tower should be lowered back onto the trailer bed if safe to do so 	1	3	3

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate caution in light to medium rain and in severe rain stop climbing • Do not use wall in thunder & lightening & wait for 30 minutes after last flash of lightning before using wall • The climbing area should be cleared of participants and instructors if it is not safe to lower the wall until the weather has subsided. 			
Falls from Height								
Falling from tower	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max group size of 15 • Only users weighing less than 17 stone (113 kgs) can use the wall • Hydraulic Auto Belay system used as per manufacturers recommendation • Shoes must be worn & securely fastened, no high heels, open toes shoes or bare feet allowed whilst climbing • Climbers must wear correct harness for size and weight • No climbing on the tower without being clipped into auto belay system, no free climbing • No side to side swinging or climbing • No climbing over the top of the wall • Safety talk on how to climb and how to descend the tower, remain upright and do not push away from the wall 	1	3	3
Plant and Machinery								
Erection of Wall	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONLY qualified & signed off staff/ crew will operate the tower during set up/ pack down (as detailed in the activity training requirements grid), referring to the manufacturers operating manual as required • Check access of where the wall is to go • A suitable safety area to be established & marked out and/or fenced off 	1	2	2

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Check overhead area prior to setting up •Use plates and extra boards on soft ground •All non-essential persons to be kept clear of wall and trailer during erection and lowering process 			
Moving & towing	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ONLY qualified & signed off staff/ crew will operate the tower during set up/ pack down (as detailed in the activity training requirements grid), referring to the manufacturers operating manual as required •Towing the wall off-site is governed by the Traffic Act 1988 & subsequent legislation so reference should be made to the current laws regarding driving license & vehicle required as well as vehicle emissions rules •Only staff approved by the Management Committee should tow the wall and they should be competent in towing 	1	2	2
Lighting								
Risk of all accidents increases in reduced light	Staff, users, other site users & public	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At or after dusk turn on the floodlights setup on the tower perimeter fencing & turn on the traversing & summerhouse floodlights if required 	1	2	2
Electrical Safety								
Shock from battery	Staff	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The sirens at the top of the wall & the raising & lowering of the wall is run from a leisure battery •Check for obvious damage to cables before erecting the wall •The battery can be charged whilst on the tower, but care should be taken to ensure the circuit & charger remain dry •The battery should not be on charge whilst users are climbing 	1	3	3
Manual handling								

Moving kit	Staff	2	2	4	•Recommended to use a trolley to move the harnesses & other equipment from the activity store to the tower	1	2	2
Helping users on wall	Staff	2	2	4	•Staff supervising sessions can offer help when requested but must consider risk of personal injury	1	2	2

The areas below were considered and weren't deemed a risk at the time of the assessment:

Fire Safety

COSHH

Hazardous Buildings/Glazing

Display Screen Equipment

Food Hygiene

Gas Safety