

Risk Assessment: Jacobs Ladder

Reviewed: August 2020

Next Review Date: August 2021

Assessment undertaken by: Chris Martlew, Senior Instructor

L = LOW M = MEDIUM H = HIGH

Hazards	Effects	Who might be effected	Risk		Methods to Avoid/Reduce Risk
			Likelihood	Consequence	
Jacobs Ladder					Jacobs Ladder
Falling	Death, serious to minor injuries to the group or individuals.	All	L	H	<p>Clear safety brief given by trained instructors</p> <p>Climbers are to be attached to a safety rope at all times.</p> <p>There must be a minimum of 2 belayers on each rope at all times.</p> <p>Instructors are to check the fitting of harnesses and helmets</p> <p>It is critical to make sure tension is always maintained on the belay ropes.</p> <p>The instructor is to have a hands on approach while supervising the lower off - one climber at a time, keeping the speed under control.</p> <p>The instructor is to end the session if safety is compromised at any point.</p>
Belayers slipping	Back/neck injury, sprains, bruising, and cuts. Injury to climber.	Individual	M	L/H	<p>Clear safety brief given by instructor</p> <p>The instructor is to have a hands on approach supervising the lower off, one climber at a time – keeping the speed under control.</p> <p>Ensure belayers are focused.</p> <p>Check ground is clear of debris and not slippery.</p> <p>Belayer should be attached into the system, to limit movement.</p> <p>Tension should be maintained on the belay line at all times.</p>
Panic attack	Shock, bruising, asthma	Individual	L	M	<p>Participants must carry relevant medication</p> <p>The instructor is to ensure they have a first aid kit on session.</p> <p>All rescues must be carried out in accordance with site specific procedures</p>

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Jacobs Ladder					Jacobs Ladder
Damage unsuitable equipment	Death, serious to minor injury	All	L	H	Pre use equipment checks carried out by instructors Equipment fitted, supervised and frequently checked by instructors Unserviceable equipment is dealt with accordingly. Any rough parts on the wooden bars to be sanded to prevent any splinters.
Incorrectly fitted equipment	Death, serious to minor injury	All	L	H	Instructor training and observations
Tangled belay lines in trees	Unable to belay properly to prevent falls Death serious to minor injury	All	L	M/H	Frequent site observations Removal of overhanging branches
Insect bites	Stings, allergic reactions, anaphylactic shock	Individual	L	L/M/H	Have any personal medication available
Bird droppings	Illness, disease, (potential bird flu)	Individual	L	M	Keep equipment clean Wash hands after activities