



ADVENTURE PIRATE
CRATE STACK RISK ASSESSMENT

Crate Stack	Completed by: James Short – Adventure Pirate LTD
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Required Instructor Competence	• DBS Checked • Experienced and trained in delivering activities • First Aid (min 16 hours) • MTA Climbing qualification of CWA or higher/Locally trained by external technical advisor trainer
Ratios	• Instructors may manage a maximum of three ropes.

N.B. This Risk Assessment in no way negates the need for continual dynamic risk assessment

Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Measures.	Who is responsible?
Unauthorized/unsupervised use of crate stack	Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	All	All ropes and other crate stacking equipment to be removed from trees after use. Only one tracer per tree will be left in when not in use. All PPE and other crate stack equipment will be locked away when not in use. Only qualified/trained instructors may set up the crate stack in	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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			accordance with training.	
Vandalism or weather damage to the tree	Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	Participants and instructors	A visual check of the tree and anchors to be carried out prior to every crate stack session.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Falling debris and uneven terrain	Trips, falls, head injuries, sprains, cuts and bruises	Participants and instructors	The area under the trees used for crate stack will be managed to minimise trip hazards. All trees that will be used for crate stack are to be dead wooded and inspected if they are fit for use by a qualified tree arborist Trees are to be inspected annually by a qualified tree arborist. All participants and instructors to wear a helmet during the activity. Everything must be removed from pockets prior to climbing. Shoes must be securely fitting. The area below the crate stack is to be sectioned off. Any persons entering the sectioned off area must wear a helmet.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Incompetent instruction by instructors	Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	Participants and instructors	Instructors to be fully trained and/or hold a relevant NGB certificate in climbing instruction.	Director Adventure Pirate.



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			Instructors to follow training and SOPs	
Faulty equipment	Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	Participants and instructors	All equipment checked at the time of purchase and added to the climbing log. All equipment checked before and after use and inspected Monthly in accordance with the maintenance schedule in the climbing log. Checks and faults are to be recorded in the climbing log. All faulty equipment is to be immediately removed from active use and recoded in the Climbing log. Replacement equipment is to be added to the climbing log.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
The activity - Crate Stack Injury from crates	Being scared and unable to move, entrapment in belay devices, Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	Participants and instructors	Long hair is to be tied back. Loose clothing to be removed and dangly bits tucked in. Jewellery and watches to be removed. Suitable shoes must be worn i.e. trainers, hiking boots, shoes. Not wellington boots, flip flops, open toed sandals. Instructor to check all participant PPE (harnesses and helmets) prior to	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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			the activity taking place. The instructor will tie/clip in each participant and check all knots and belay devices prior to anyone leaving the ground. Instructor to give clear instruction and demonstrate all the required techniques before allowing anyone to climb or belay. Participants will demonstrate competence before ascending. At the point of lowering, the instructor will assist with speed control to avoid rope burns and lowering the climber too quickly. Participants are not allowed to build their crate stack above the anchor point. Participants assisting with the construction of the tower must wear helmets. Group members not assisting must remain in designated safe area. Tower to be constructed in an orientation that minimises chance of collapsing in the direct of the	
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			belayers. Crates should not be thrown to climber. Surplus crates should be stored away from the main tower. Appropriate briefing to group highlighting the risks of tower collapse. Appropriate group management by Instructor	
Adverse weather conditions	Death, illness and injuries, Hyperthermia/hypothermia, being struck by lightning	Participants and instructors	Instructors to check weather forecast prior to session and cancel the session in event of strong winds, and thunder and lightning. Appropriate clothing and footwear is to be worn based on weather conditions.	Adventure Pirate Instructors

Crate Stack SOPs

Participants build a vertical staircase tower using crates. The idea is to get as high as they can before their tower topples over and they are left hanging in the air from their harness and rope. Other participants in the group help build the crate tower and belaying the stacker.



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Set Up

Flake out all ropes and check for damage.

Check Black anchors in Carte stacking ridge line are secure with alpine butterfly hitches.

Climbing rope/s are pulled through and centred in the black anchors on crate stack ridge line.

Use tracer lines to haul the ends of the crate stacking ridge line through anchors on trees.

The crate stack ridge line is secured with bowlines with a stopper and tensioned by wrapping around the trees.

A pallet is placed directly under the anchor points of the crate stack ridge line.

Equipment fitting and briefing

Participants are kitted up in harnesses and helmets which are checked by instructors for correct fit.

Boundaries are clearly identified. Anyone within the crate stacking area is to wear a helmet.

The fall zone are pointed out and dangers of being hit by the falling crate tower explained to the group.

A demonstration is to be carried out with instructions on how to stack the crates and what will happen when the crate stack topples over.

Procedure

The climber is clipped or tied into the rope.

The belayer uses a GriGri.

The instructor checks both the climber and the belay before every Ascend.



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Helpers start by placing the bottom crates on the pallet in a T shape for the climber.

The climber starts their ascend by stepping back and forth across the two crate stacks as they get higher one crate at a time.

When the crates are beyond the reach of the helpers, the helpers move away to a safe area out of the fall zone.

Crates can be thrown up to the climber or clipped onto a rope and hauled up by the climber (depending on the ability of the group/climber)

When the crate stack is about to fall/is falling the Instructor is to shout 'TIMBER' This alerts everyone that the crate stack is falling and to be vigilant of the direction of fall.

The climber will be lowered to the ground. Caution is to be taken when lowering that the climber won't land on fallen crates.

Climber is unclipped

Crates are removed from the fall zone and placed in a stack ready for the next participant.

Major First Aid Procedure:

Call 999 for help

Instructor in charge starts first aid on casualty

One assistant removes other participants from scene

Inform party organiser of incident

Record incident



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Emergency telephone number: 07920162549

Emergency services: 999/221

Nearest A&E: Poole General Hospital, Longfleet Rd, Poole BH15 2JB. Tel: 01202 665511

The Royal Bournemouth General Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH7 7DW [Tel:01202 303626](tel:01202303626)