



ADVENTURE PIRATE
TREE CLIMBING RISK ASSESSMENT

Tree Climbing	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 tree climb	Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	All	Climbing holds to be at least 3m above the ground, so people can't reach them when not in use. Removeable staples to be used for the first 3m of the tree climb and to be removed from tree and locked away when not in use. Only one tracer per tree will be left in when not in use. All PPE and other equipment will be	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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			locked away when not in use.	
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 tree climbing session	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Falling debris and uneven terrain	Trips, falls, head injuries, sprains, cuts and bruises	Participants and instructors	The area under the tree will be managed to minimise trip hazards. All trees that will be used for tree climbing are to be dead wooded and inspected 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 the pockets prior to climbing. Shoes must be securely fitting. Tree climbing area to be sectioned off. Any persons entering the sectioned off area for tree climbing 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. Instructors to follow training and	Director Adventure Pirate.



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			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 maintenance schedule. 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 - tree climbing	Being scared and unable to move, entrapment in belay devices, stuck up the tree, Death from falling, head injuries, fractures, sprains, cuts, bangs and bruises	Participants and instructors	Long hair 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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			any climbing taking place. The instructor will tie/clip in the 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 the rope. Nervous participants will not be allowed to climb higher than the monkey holds into the branches. 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 climb above the top anchor point.	
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.	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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			Appropriate clothing and footwear is to be worn based on weather conditions.	

Tree climbing SOPs

Set up

All ropes are to be flaked out and checked for damage

All metal work is to be checked for damage

The climbing rope is attached to the tracer line left in the tree and hauled up through the anchor and back down to the ground. Tracer line is removed and flaked out for later.

Equipment fitting in briefing

All participants are kitted out with a harness and helmet. The instructor is to check correct fitting of helmets and harnesses.

Boundaries are identified and explained. Only people wearing helmets will be allowed in the tree climbing area.

Instructor gives demonstration on correct belay technique



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Instructor explains how to descent using a willing volunteer.

Procedure

The climber is clipped in/tied into the rope.

Belayer is to use a Gri Gri and is backed up if there are helpers.

The climber climbs as high as they can. The climber isn't to climb above the anchor point.

The climber is to follow the line of the rope and be careful of the rope catching underneath holds.

When ready the belayer lowers the climber at a safe speed.

On completion of the session the rope is taken back down using the tracer line which is left in the tree.

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)