

TREE CLIMBING/MILK CRATES- SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES

Activity	Significant hazard	Isolate	Minimise	Eliminate	How
Tree Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inattentive belayers • Strong winds • Weak branches 		Minimise Minimise Minimise		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructors observe belayers. - Check weather forecast daily . - Perform regular site inspection (on the day using the trees, after storms and earthquakes).

Location: Hanmer Springs Forest Camp, one gum tree and pine tree.

Environmental Restrictions: High winds, Moderate Snow, Heavy rain and Thunder Storms.

One instructor will manage no more than TWO ropes/ climbs at a time.

Before the activity the instructor must:

- ✓ Check the site for any hazards.
- ✓ Check the weather conditions- especially wind strength and thunder storms. Assess the trees for damage after a significant storm.
- ✓ Visually check ladders for any obvious damage or loose rungs.
- ✓ Raise ladders and attach top of ladder to the tree.
- ✓ Instructors set up the pine tree, gum tree and milk crates (check how many climbs are needed).
- ✓ Select climbs, gear is located in the shed (all equipment is color coded to each climb), place equipment into barrel.
 - Attach ground anchors to bolts at base of each climb with no more than 1 meter of rope away from the tree.
 - Attach ropes to tracer cords. Pull rope through reduction block.
 - Tie a figure of 8 on a bite with a stopper knot (see diagram at the bottom of page 3). Attach two karabineers of equal size and opposing on to the figure of 8 loop
 - Attach belay device to other end of the rope. Ensure this is running in the correct direction.
 - Tie an overhand knot as a stopper on the end of the rope and place this end in a bucket.
 - Clip all karabineers together and keep tidy.
- ✓ **Instructors must to buddy check each other set up.**
- ✓ Prepare the correct number of helmets and harnesses for the group.
- ✓ **Instructors check they are wearing the correct harness with climbing rescue gear attached.**

During the activity the instructor must:

See Instructor notes for briefing structure.

- ✓ Ensure all participants are listening to and responding to instructions.

- ✓ Brief participants on how to wear a harness and helmet correctly (see Harness and Helmet SOP)
- ✓ Regularly check for learning- ask the participants questions.
- ✓ Ensure participants are wearing their harness and helmet correctly at all times - check these again if participant goes off site.
- ✓ Brief participants on correct belay technique. We use a Gri-Gri with one belayer and two or three back up belayers pulling the rope down and out through the device and into a bucket.
- ✓ Brief participants on correct abseil technique.
Belayers do not touch the belay device (Gri-Gri) until the climber has completely weighted the rope.
- ✓ Check Karabineers are locked correctly before each person begins their climb.
- ✓ Instructor must stay focused on the climbers and belayers making sure correct techniques are being used at all times.
- ✓ Stop any student not belaying correctly.
- ✓ Regularly re-group the participants to gauge their well-being.
- ✓ If a participant is not following instructions and instructor is concerned for the participants safety or the safety of other, the instructor can pull the participant from the activity.
- ✓ If any **new** significant hazards arise, Instructor must assess the situation, minimise the hazard. If instructor is unable to minimize the hazard instructor must stop the activity and contact operations manager

Incident/ Emergency Procedure

- ✓ Access the situation.
- ✓ Follow the emergency response plan, select what level and response is needed.
- ✓ If any concerns call, operations manager or on call person.
- ✓ If rescue needed perform rescue as trained to do so.

Milk Crate Stacking

- Set up one or two static ropes (dependent on the number of instructors. One instructor = one static rope) for the milk crates challenge.
- Tie rope to tracer cord and pull through reduction block.
- Tie a figure of 8 with a stopper knot on to the climbers end.
- Attach two matching Karabineers opposing on to figure of 8 for the climber.
- Tie four to six alpine butterfly knots into the other end of the rope (depending on group size). Attach one karabineer on to each knot (for the belayers).
- ✓ Brief the participants on the milk crate activity.
 - Only the climber may leave the ground
 - No builder is allowed to stand on a milk crate.
 - Teach them an appropriate throwing technique.
 - If a milk crate falls to the ground, no one should try to catch it.

- ✓ Debrief the learning experience with the participants.
- ✓ Children are to neatly re stack the crates if it is the last crate stacking session of the day. Instructor may need to touch up the stacking, ensuring a clear pathway to ladders and flammable liquids locker
- ✓ Ensure crate stacking ropes are secured together as soon as participants are unclipped, if possible secure the line to a fence or ladder.

After the activity the instructor must:

- ✓ De- rig the ropes including knots and spaghetti the ropes into the bucket, if it is the end of the week coil and hang up in assigned spot (If rope is wet daisy chain and hang in shed).
- ✓ Hang harnesses on correct hook and bring helmet bucket into the shed.
- ✓ Sign gear in.
- ✓ Place all hard wear on to the bucket loops.
- ✓ Place any faulty gear into the labeled bucket and inform operations manager.
- ✓ Tie all tracer lines on to the tree.
- ✓ Remove the ladders from the trees and store away.

Figure 8 with a stopper knot.

