Health & Safety Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Use of the Lincoln District Scouts Mobile Climbing Tower Location: As required	Date of risk assessment	01/09/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Neil Mahon
		Date of next review	01/09/2027 at latest		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. **The risk** is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	**Controls** are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep **checking** throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even **stop** the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns	Section Volunteers, vistors, Young Leaders, Scouts	Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on cafefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available.	
Transport to and from site. Snaking of trailer, road traffic collision	Driver, passengers and other road users	– Must be towed by a vehicle with a minimum of 2.0 tonne towing capacity • Driver to be competent and experienced at towing • Towing strap to be attached	
Raising, lowering & rigging of the climbing tower. Trapping of limbs, hands or fingers	Those involved in raising, lowering & rigging the climbing tower	• Rigging of tower to be supervised by Scout climbing permit holder. • Raising, lowering & rigging to be carried out as detailed in the document 'Rigging, Raising & Lowering of the Lincoln District Scouts Mobile Climbing Tower' – Apart from when required for raising or lowering the tower the battery master switch is to be turned off & the remote-control electrical cable disconnected. • Only those directly involved in raising or lowering the climbing tower are to be within the cordon area	

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Lack of / poor supervision Falling that could lead to serious injury, fractures or death	Climbers Belayers Supervisors	• As per POR's there is to be a Leader in Charge. • A minimum of at least two MAT member with a Scout 3 rope supervisory permit to supervise the use of the climbing tower. – Supervisor must remain present at all times and climbing stopped if distracted, dealing with an issue or the supervisor has to leave. • Helpers must be well briefed, only appropriate tasks delegated and not to be left unsupervised.	
Falling from tower Fall leading to impact injury, worst case scenario death	Climbers Belayers Supervisors	• Climbers must be belayed using appropriate PPE. – Any time the tower is erect but not actively in use for climbing there is to be a nominated leader in charge. – Note that the leader in charge does not have to be a climbing permit holder. – The leader in charge is to ensure that no one climbs on the tower when it is not in use. The leader in charge may delegate this responsibility to a suitable adult. – If for any reason the leader in charge or delegated adult cannot ensure that no one climbs on the tower when it is not in use they are to arrange for the tower to be lowered. Example could be such as overnight. • Climbing must be run in accordance with Scouting POR's, of note: – There must be a 'Leader in Charge' to co-ordinate the running of the activity. o Climbing to be supervised by a Scout climbing permit holder.	
Equipment failure (PPE) Fall leading to impact injury, worst case scenario death	Climbers Belayers Supervisors	• Climbing equipment (ropes, harnesses, carabiners, belay devices, helmets) condition checked before start of climbing session. • Climbing equipment stored correctly. • Climbing equipment life within the manufacturers recommended limits. – Any climbing equipment found to be faulty is to be removed and clearly labelled as faulty/not to be used.	
Incorrectly fitted PPE Fall leading to impact injury, worst case scenario death	Climbers Belayers Supervisors	– Once fitted harnesses must be checked by Scout climbing permit holder. – Once fitted helmets are to be checked by Scout climbing permit holder. • Climbers briefed not to adjust/tamper with any of the climbing equipment once it has been fitted. – Additional check of harness & helmet to be carried out by belayer. • Climber attached to rope via locking carabiner: o Knot to be checked by Scout climbing permit holder. o Check that the carabiner is locked to be carried out by belayer.	

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Contact with wall during climbing and lowering Cuts, bruises, abrasions	Climbers	• Climbers briefed on climbing & lowering safely. – Each climber will have a belayer looking after them (no auto-belays) – If a climber needs assistance with this the belayer is to discreetly inform the climbing supervisor.	
Falling objects Impact injuries, most likely to head.	Climbers Belayers, supervisors	• Climbers briefed to remove items from pockets (phones, coins etc.) – Footwear must be securely attached. (no lose sandals or flip flops etc) No bare feet. – Climbing helmets available for climbers & belayers. – Helmet to be worn if requested by climber or climber's parent/carer/guardian/leader. o Belayers may choose to wear helmets following a personal risk assessment. – NOTE: Permitted climbing supervisor may insist on the wearing of helmets. By climbers and/or belayers.	
Fouling/snagging clothing etc. on climbing tower or equipment. Strangulation, damage to clothing etc.	Climbers	• No loose/baggy clothing to be worn that could become a strangulation risk. • Necklaces to be removed. – Scout neckers to be removed. • Any other jewellery that the climbing supervisor considers poses a risk is to be removed. Climbing supervisor has final say on this. • Long hair to be tied back, no exceptions.	
Incorrect/unsafe footwear Ankle/foot injuries	Climbers	• Footwear suitability checked prior to climbing. o High heeled footwear not to be worn. – Flip flops or open toe sandals not to be worn. o Climbing supervisor has final say on this.	
Loose/rotating climbing holds Possible fall/slip	Climbers	• Any holds reported as loose are to be tightened before the next climb. • If unable to satisfactorily tighten a hold then the hold must be removed before the next climb. • Tool (allen key & spanner) to tighten or remove loose holds to be available.	
Participants stuck on climbing wall, 'Freezing' Fear/mental	Climbers	• Belayer to inform climbing supervisor in a quiet & calm manner. • Climbing supervisor to resolve the situation in an appropriate manner to the situation.	
Weather conditions: Hot/cold/wet/windy	All users	• Weather to be monitored. If in the opinion of the climbing supervisor the weather is unsuitable for the activity the session will be stopped. • The tower is not to be erected in wind speeds greater than 30mph.	

		○ Wind speed to be measured prior to erecting the tower using supplied wind gauge. ○ Prior to erecting the tower the wind gauge is to be fitted to the mounting bracket at top of tower. ○ If the wind speed exceeds 30mph during use the tower is to be lowered.	
Risks to and from non-climbing people in the area.	All users	• The area around the climbing tower is to be cordoned by a rope. • Entry to within the cordon is to be maintained by a monitored point of access. • Only climbers & members of the climbing team are to be within the cordon. If for any reason anyone else wants to enter the cordon area they must get the permission of the climbing supervisor.	
Structural failure of the climbing wall Serious Injury or death	All users	– Climbing tower independently tested to ADIPS standard. • Checks made prior to use – Monthly & annual maintenance checks	
Hazards not identified in generic risk assessment causing injuries	All users	– A dynamic risk assessment must be carried out for any new hazard identified during the course of the activity. • Hazard to be controlled and a note made of the findings for later addition to the risk assessment. • If necessary a decision can be made to halt or alter the activity.	

Risk Assessment Review

Date	Version	Name	Signature	Comments
05/08/2025	1	N. Mahon	Neil Mahon	Initial issue of risk assessment
01/09/2026	2	N. Mahon	Neil Mahon	Reviewed, updates in red