

Health & Safety Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Use of the Lincoln District Scouts Mobile Climbing Tower	Date of risk assessment	05/08/2025	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Neil Mahon
	Location: As required	Date of next review	04/08/2026 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?
<p>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage.</p> <p>The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p> <p>For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns</p>	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<p>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.</p> <p>Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on carefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available.</p>	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.
Transport to and from site. Snaking of trailer, road traffic collision	Driver, passengers and other road users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be towed with a vehicle rated at 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 leading to serious injury, fractures or death	Climbers Belayers Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbers must be belayed using appropriate PPE. Any time the tower is erect there is to be a nominated supervisor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If climbing is not taking place the supervisor does not have to be a climbing permit holder. If supervision is impractical when not in use the tower is to be lowered such as overnight. Climbing must be run in accordance with Scouting POR's, of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There must be a 'Leader in Charge' to co-ordinate the adults running the activity. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once fitted harnesses must 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 to be carried out by belayer. Climber attached to rope via locking carabiner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knot to be checked by Scout climbing permit holder. Check that the carabiner is locked to be carried out by belayer. 	
Contact with wall during climbing and lowering Cuts, bruises, abrasions	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbers briefed on climbing & lowering safely. Each climber will have a belayer looking after them (no auto-belays) 	

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Falling objects Impact injuries, most likely to head.	Climbers Belayers, supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbers briefed to remove items from pockets (phones, coins etc.) • Foot wear must be securely attached. (no lose sandals or flip flops etc) No bare feet. • Climbing helmets available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helmet to be worn if requested by climber or climber's parent/carer/guardian. ○ Helmets to be worn at the discretion of the climbing supervisor. ○ Belayers may choose to wear helmets following a personal risk assessment. ○ NOTE: Permitted supervisor may insist on the wearing of helmets. 	
Fouling/snagging clothing etc. on climbing tower or equipment. Strangulation, damage to clothing etc.	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footwear suitability checked prior to climbing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High heeled footwear not to be worn. ○ Flip flops or sandals not to be worn. ○ Climbing supervisor has final say on this. 	
Loose/rotating climbing holds Possible fall/slip	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belayer to inform climbing supervisor in a quiet & calm manner. • Climbing supervisor to resolve the situation in an appropriate manner to the situation. 	

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Weather conditions: Hot/cold/wet/windy	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbing tower independently tesed to ADIPS standard. Checks made prior to use Annual maintenance checks 	
Hazards not identified in generic risk assessment causing injuries	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dynamic risk assessment must be carried out for any new hazard identified during the course of this work 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	<i>Neil Mahon</i>	Initial issue of risk assessment

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