

Risk Assessment – Caving (Artificial on-site caves)

Baseline	X	Site Specific		Vulnerable Person		Temporary		Version	2020.1.0	Date of issue:	20/01/2020
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Operating notes:

- This risk assessment covers artificial, purpose-built caves on Kingswood Centres; it does not cover caving in natural caves off centre.
- 1 Activity Leaders to 15 participants plus 1 additional adult. The extra adult does not have to enter the cave, but must be available if needed.
- Activity leader to be trained to in-house syllabus for the activity. Refresher training as directed by coaching sessions. No special requirements for Chief instructor. Technical advice from Group Activities Manager.
- Helmets, lights and the caving facility itself are all subject to inspections as per the Equipment Management Standards
- Internal features must be firmly affixed and not offer the opportunity for participants to become entangled in them.

Risk – Benefit Statement: There is a very low risk of minor injury, with significant opportunities for personal development through facing up to personal challenges. This makes the risk acceptable.

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Becoming trapped in the cave – Escape routes blocked, participants getting stuck, participants locked inside	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that all entry/exit points are unlocked and accessible at the beginning of the activity • Do not allow access to anyone who cannot fit through the entrance/test tunnel. • Count everyone before you go into the cave and again when you come out. Make sure everyone is accounted for before closing and locking access points. 	Very Low
Illness – caused by stale air, stagnant water or open cuts	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible, the cave should be ‘aired’ by opening all the access doors and hatches and allowing fresh air to circulate. • Drain any water that has leaked into the cave if it risks standing for more than a few days and becoming stagnant. • Ensure all open cuts are covered to prevent infection, and that participants wash their hands after the activity. 	Very Low
General Participation – causing injuries from banged heads, collisions with others, crawling in passages	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that all participants are wearing long sleeves and trousers, long hair is gathered up and tucked away, large or prominent jewelry and large pocket items are removed. • Give every participant a helmet and check that it is fitted correctly. A full turban is an acceptable alternative, but be careful of loose cloth becoming entangled in equipment or apparatus. • Tell participants to be aware of who is near them and give each other space to avoid being kicked. 	Very Low
Anxiousness – Arising from fears of darkness or confined spaces	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue lights to participants based on the needs of the group and the objectives of the activity. • Explain that there will be multiple lights in the cave, that there are emergency exits to reach the outside quickly and that they will never be left on their own. 	Very Low