

Risk Assessment – Zip Wire

Baseline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site Specific		Vulnerable Person		Temporary		Version	2020.1.0	Date of issue:	20/01/2020
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Operating notes:

- Zip Wire should be understood to refer to activities within Kingswood whereby a participant is attached to a zip wire and when they come to a stop they are suspended in the air and require an Activity Leader to facilitate their descent to the ground.
- This risk assessment does not cover Kingswood staff accessing the structure for routine inspection and maintenance. Please see the 'Work at Height inspections / maintenance' risk assessment.
- This risk assessment does not cover Quick Zip at Dearne Valley or Aerial Runway at Grosvenor Hall – Both have separate and specific Risk Assessments.
- Structure and equipment must be managed as per the Kingswood Equipment Management Standards.
- The maximum number of people allowed on the structure is to be written in the site specific risk assessment
- **Standard setup** 1 * Zip Tower Instructor plus 1 * Zip Grounds Instructor to 1 active participant with 1 additional adult supervising group (max size 15) – one participant on a wire at time
- **Colomendy Giant Zip** 2 * Zip Tower Instructors plus 1 * Zip Ground Instructor to 1 active participant with 1 additional adult supervising group (max size 15) – one participant on a wire at time
- **Participants** - The Zip Wire should not be used by anyone (including all staff, participants and accompanying adults) that is/has:
 - Weight over 120kg / 18.5 Stone
 - The weight restrictions only applies to those who access the tower (Zip Grounds Instructors working purely on the ground do not need to adhere for example)
 - Pregnant (unless doctor's advice has been sought)
 - Any type of heart condition or heart-related issues (unless doctor's advice has been sought)
 - Any type of spinal injury or weak spine condition (unless doctor's advice has been sought)

Qualifications/ Competence:

- Activity Leaders must be in-house assessed by an MIA or ERCA trainer; or have a relevant NGB qualification plus approval from the internal advisor; or be a Kingswood Ropes Trainer as approved by the internal technical advisor
- Zip Wire Full Instructors are trained and assessed in both Zip Tower and Zip Ground Instructor and so can cover either role
- The Nominated Chief Instructor must be onsite during all roped activity operations; they must hold a relevant NGB award.
- All Activity Leaders must have their first session observed and then frequently as per the observation standards.
- All Activity Leaders are required to maintain their skill level and must attend a rescue refresh every 3 months and after lengthy periods of shut down.

Risk – Benefit Statement:

There is a low 'real' risk of injury during Zip Wire but a high 'perceived' risk allowing a greater basis for learning.

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Adverse weather – Lightning or High Winds	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff must follow the ROSPA 30/30 rule for lightning. If lightning occurs suddenly then the group should vacate the area immediately. If the facility is within a woodland environment then the activity should be cancelled during high winds to prevent falling branches becoming a risk. 	Low
Unauthorised access	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access points to roped activity structures must be secured against casual or unauthorised access when the equipment is not in use. All groups are briefed to stay off all activity equipment unless supervised by a Kingswood Activity Leader. 	Low
Incorrect Belay Setup	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When setting up the Zip Wire rig you must check it is correct immediately after setup. When operating at the launch platform (whether the same person who setup or not) you must check the rig before commencing launch. The launch Activity Leader must monitor the rig after each descent. 	Low
Incorrectly fitted helmet	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets must be worn correctly as per the manufacturers guidelines by all persons within the designated area Where an activity specifies that a helmet must be worn, every effort must be made to get participants to wear one. However, this may present difficulties for those who wear a turban or other similar head covering. Participants in this activity who are wearing a full 'pagri' turban are exempt from wearing a helmet, as the turban should control sufficiently the risks that the helmet would otherwise guard against. This exemption does not apply to participants who are wearing a 'patka' or lighter cloth head covering, with or without a top-knot. These individuals must wear a helmet, and provision should be made for a private area where these participants can remove or adjust their patka in order to fit the helmet. Where a turban is worn in place of a helmet, special care must be taken to ensure that there is no risk of any loose cloth getting entangled in equipment or apparatus. 	Low

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Unsecure attachment to safety rope or Incorrectly fitted equipment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit harnesses are to be correctly fitted (waist loop tight above the hips and legs loops tight) • A chest harness must be worn when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The participant does not have defined hips ○ The participant has a fairly prominent upper body/stomach and no hip definition (disability or over-weight) ○ When large clothing has been tucked into the harness preventing defined hips to be seen ○ There is a medical reason that suggests the participant may faint/collapse ○ Very top heavy, so inversion is likely • The use of a DMM Bridge is the only approved method of connecting a chest and sit harness using a captive karabiner. • Check the active participant's PPE and roped attachment twice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When attaching the safety rope - This check should be visual and verbal for all group members to observe. ○ Immediately prior to leaving the platform - The belaying Instructor must complete a final tactile inspection prior to any participant leaving the platform 	Low
Impact with ground or other obstacle	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The launch Activity Leader must check the area below the full length of the zip line is free from people and obstacles before you allow the participant to descend. • The ground Activity Leader must lower the participant at an appropriate speed. This should be slow and controlled. 	Low
Premature / unsupervised release of Safety system and operation of decent device.	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground instructor must be in the position ready for the arrival of the participant before the launch instructors allows the participant to leave the platform. • The zipwire setup incorporates 4 phases to the lower system. (Drop rope, unclip backup, knot release & device operation). • Only an approved lowering device may be used and this will include an anti-panic function. 	Low
Falls from height	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone operating at height outside of guard rails must be suitably attached to a safety line. • Brief the participants on the correct way to access the structure • Anyone operating at height outside guard rails must be suitably attached to a safety line. • Anyone climbing ladders must have their hands free at all times – Equipment must be attached to harnesses or carried in a bag 	Low
Entrapment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief and check the participant has tucked away and secured any loose or baggy clothing. • Brief and check the participant has removed any large or dangly jewelry. • Brief and check the participant has tied back / secured long hair • The Activity Leader must check themselves for the above as well 	Low