



Activity Risk Assessment – Gorge Scrambling

Mountain Circles recognises that using suitably qualified Instructors greatly reduces the inherent risk of this activity, therefore all staff are qualified/trained to, or above the required level for this activity. Instructors will be aware of emergency procedures for each specific venue. Industry recognised Instructor : Group ratios are always observed for the specific activity.

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Who it effects</i>	<i>Unmanaged Risk</i>	<i>Control Measures</i>	<i>Managed Risk</i>
Drowning	Group and Instructors	Medium	Well managed/briefed group by a trained/qualified instructor. Swimming confidence established before the activity. Buoyancy aids used if there are sections of 'out of depth' swimming.	Low
Jumps and Slides into pools	Group and Instructors	High	Pools entered feet first and individual descriptions given for different jumps/slides. Pools checked prior to use. Pools carefully reassessed after strong winds and high water levels. Helmets worn.	Medium
Injury from falling objects	Group and Instructors	High	Helmets will be fitted and worn throughout the duration of the activity. Extra care should be taken and alternative venues considered after/during heavy rain, strong winds or any known recent rock falls/land slides.	Low
Injury due to	Group	High	Instructor will	Low

wrongly fitted equipment			allocate the correct sized equipment. A brief as to how to fit will be given and equipment checked before the activity begins	
Instructor fall during demonstration	Instructor	Medium	Instructor should use a spotter or appropriate method for safeguarding themselves.	Low
Entanglement or Entrapment	Group	High	Advise hair to be tied back and jewellery and loose clothing to be removed/taped over. Branches and other debris avoided or removed. Ropes managed if in use and a releasable system used if descending. The Gorge should be constantly monitored for changes or fresh debris. Alternative venue used if high flow makes safety unmanageable.	Low
Falling from the top of a climbed section/step	Group and Instructor	High	The group will be briefed about the risk of falling, allocated a safe place to remain whilst waiting and managed appropriately. If windy or slippery and wet then extra care should be taken, also where water flow may cause a member to be washed away this should be highlighted and managed. Correct use of spotting and safety rope applied. Helmets worn.	Low
Minor Slips and Trips	Group and Instructor	High	Group managed and speed controlled. Movement brief given and demonstrated. Correct footwear checked. Good route choice directed. Instructor aware of alternative access/escape points. Helmets worn.	Medium
Exposure related	Group and	High	Group to be	Low

issues, Hypo/Hyperthermia, dehydration, sun- burn etc.	Instructors		correctly clothed and equipped. Instructor should have spare layer/group shelter, water, sun cream as required. Group should be continuously monitored. A 'dry' gorge could be considered in very cold conditions.	
Spate Conditions	Group and Instructors	High	Forecasts and current/recent water levels checked. Local knowledge of run-of speed and other possible factors to consider enquired about. Water flow control measures such as dam releases checked up on if applicable. (as in Church Beck)	Low
Other users	Group, Instructors and other users	Low	Venue assessed on arrival, if busy or there is concern about other users then another location/section of gorge should be considered. Helmets should be worn at all times. Group should be briefed about the possibility of other users and the correct conduct explained and monitored. Other users coordinated with.	Low

[Updated by Paddy Cave (MIC) on 01-05-2013.]