



**270**  
CLIMBING

# RISK ASSESSMENTS

**ROPES COURSE**

2025 ISSUE

## RISK ASSESSMENT SCALES

The following Risk Assessments are scored on the scales as listed below.

FREQUENCY	
Constant	Daily interactions with hazard
Very Frequent	Weekly interactions with hazard
Frequent	Monthly interactions with hazard
Infrequent	Annual interactions with hazard
Rare	Less than annual interactions with hazard

SEVERITY		
5	Risk of Death	
4	Severe	e.g. fracture, break, overnight stay in hospital
3	Moderate	e.g. strain, sprain
2	Minor	Small cut, abrasion
1	Trivial	e.g. discomfort, slight bruising

PROBABILITY		
5	Almost Certain	
4	Likely	
3	Fair	
2	Unlikely	
1	Remote	

RISK RATING SCORING BANDS	
15-25	High Priority action
6 - 12	Medium Priority action
2 - 5	Low Priority action
0 - 1	No further action

Assessor/Reviewer Name	Job Title	Created on	Reviewed	Review Date
Eleanor Duck	Activities Manager	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026
Liam O'Hara	Compliance & Safety Officer	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026

Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope Course	1

### Hazard Description

Failure of element components / equipment
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### Hazard Category(ies)

### Risk Groups

Fractures, bruising, crushing, falls	Public Staff
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### Risk Assessment (without control measures)

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
constant	5	2	10

### Existing Controls

What	By Who	Qualification	Frequency
All equipment PPE and course components receive a visual inspection and function check prior to use	Competent member of the team - Instructor or Rescue Instructor	ERCA Instructor or ERCA Rescue Instructor - or under the supervision of the above	Daily - prior to use
All equipment PPE and components undergo a full thorough inspection.	Competent Person - Safety & Compliance Officer	ERCA Rescue Instructor + current -Operational Inspection & Maintenance course	Maximum 3 monthly interval.
All equipment & Course Components - including elements, platforms & fixings	Inspected by an authorised external inspector - ERCA's Professional Standards and the EN 15567: 1:2015 + A1:2020	Certified High Ropes Inspectors to ERCA Type C Standards	Annually

### Further Controls

### Deadline

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### Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
constant	5	1	5

### Notes

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Eleanor Duck	Activities Manager	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026
Liam O'Hara	Compliance & Safety Officer	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026

Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope Course	2

#### Hazard Description

Access to elements where supervision is required, or height/weight/age limitations are not met/exceeded.

#### Hazard Category(ies)

#### Risk Groups

Fractures/ bruises/Cuts/grazes	Public
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#### Risk Assessment (without control measures)

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
constant	3	4	12

#### Existing Controls

- Clear signage on tower denoting levels of access
- Booking Conditions outline age criteria -

Course	Age	Height	Weight - Max
Low Ropes	5 yrs - 11yrs	1 metre- 1.45metre	30kgs / 120kgs
High Ropes - Course 2-4	+12yrs unaccompanied under 12 who is 6 + and accompanied by adult (if height restrictions are met)	1.2 metres+	120kgs / 18.9st
High Ropes - Course 5-6		1.45 metres+	120kgs / 18.9st

- Visitors provided with clear instruction during briefing and are required to complete the practice course to satisfactory standard - assessed by an instructor. A visual assessment is carried out on first element of practice course/low ropes.
- Staff present to monitor access to tower and elements.
- Hazard barrier across bottom of tower if staff member is not present or has to leave for any reason.

#### Further Controls

#### Deadline

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A tick box at checkout online to ensure we have the correct supervision ratios, these are checked during check in.</li> </ul>	
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#### Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
constant	3	2	6

#### Notes

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Eleanor Duck	Activities Manager	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026
Liam O'Hara	Compliance & Safety Officer	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026

Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	3

**Hazard Description**

Injuries to bystanders caused by falling, swinging or moving objects and persons.

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/ bruises/Cuts/grazes	Public Staff
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Landing zones, exit zones and danger areas are clearly demarked.
- Visitors provided with clear instruction at check-in and during the safety briefing. Eg: belongings out of pockets, use of phone holders etc
- Staff are present to monitor

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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Liam O'Hara	Compliance & Safety Officer	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026

Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	4

**Hazard Description**

PPE fitted incorrectly

**Hazard Category(ies)**

Fractures/cuts/bruises

**Risk Groups**

Public

**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Customers provided with clear instruction during briefing.
- All customers are checked by trained staff before they access the rope course.
- Staff are present to observe and monitor the participants.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	5

**Hazard Description**

Injuries caused by collisions between persons on elements.

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/cuts/bruises	Public Staff
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Numbers are restricted to safe levels on elements (two per platform and one per element) at any one time, reckless & unsafe behaviour is not tolerated.
- Customers provided with clear instruction during briefing - within the safety video and understanding check on the safety course by the team.
- Staff are present to monitor the flow of visitors on each route
- PPE worn by all participants - helmet, harness, lanyard, expo glider and sling with karabiner.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	6

**Hazard Description**

Injuries to bystanders/Participants caused by descending - e.g. Leap of Faith, Free Fall.

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/ bruises/Cuts/grazes	Public Staff
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	5	3	15

**Existing Controls**

- Access to these activities are strictly controlled by trained staff.
- Landing zones, exit zones and danger areas are clearly demarked and cordoned off from bystanders.
- Customers are provided with clear instruction.
- Staff are present to monitor, with access secured at other times.
- Landing area is kept clear and covered with rubber crumb matting.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	5	1	5

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	7

**Hazard Description**

Hair/loose clothing / Jewellery becoming caught.

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Entrapment, grazes, bruising Strangulation	Public Staff
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Long hair should be tied back.
- Loose clothing to be tucked away or removed.
- Jewellery should be removed or suitable.
- Customers provided with clear instruction during briefing.
- Staff are present to monitor.
- Qualified rescue staff always available.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	3	2	6

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	8

**Hazard Description**

Injury due to entrapment between moving parts of elements

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Entrapment/Fractures/cuts/bruising/ crushing	Public Staff
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Specific instruction is given on the use of certain element.
- Customers provided with clear instructions during briefing.
- Staff are present to monitor.
- Qualified rescue staff are always available to advise and assist.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	9

**Hazard Description**

Customer trapped on element - frozen unable to move forward or back

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Emotional Stress	Public
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	1	3	3

**Existing Controls**

- Specific instruction is given on the use of certain elements.
- Customers provided with clear instructions during briefing.
- Customers are encouraged to tackle courses in ascending order of difficulty and height,
- Clear route planner available at the bottom of the tower so participants can make an informed choice.
- Staff member at the bottom of the tower to advise participants on appropriate routes.
- Staff are present to monitor.
- Qualified rescue staff are always available.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	1	3	3

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope Course	10

**Hazard Description**

Suspension - Customer or team member suspended on the course and unable to move onwards or backwards

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Suspension syndrome/bruising/ crushing/ fainting  
Emotional stress

Public  
Staff

**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Specific instruction is given on the use of certain elements.
- Customers provided with clear instructions on correctly fitting their harness during briefing.
- Customers provided with the correctly sized expo glider lanyard.
- Staff are present to monitor.
- Qualified ERCA Instructor Rescue staff are always available.
- Number of rescue team members is increased proportionally

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	11

**Hazard Description**

Unauthorised access to tower/high ropes course

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fatalities/Fractures/ bruises/Cuts/grazes

Public

**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	5	3	15

**Existing Controls**

- Signs warning of danger are clearly displayed.
- Access to tower and elements are secured when site is closed.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

Fencing to be erected around low ropes course

August 2025

**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	5	1	5

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	270 Park	12

**Hazard Description**

Slips, Trips, falls on the course and access to the course

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/ bruises, grazes

Public  
Staff

**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Walkways and platforms are kept clean and clear from obstruction.
- Course and site inspected before opening
- Signs clearly indicate pathways and location of facilities.
- Prohibited areas are clearly marked.
- Staff present to assist & monitor
- Area around cabin is gritted
- Course conditions monitored and either additional warnings given if needed or levels may be closed for a duration if necessary.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	270 Park	13

**Hazard Description**

Adverse Weather - Strong Winds &amp; Lightning

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/ bruises, grazes/electrical burns

Public  
Staff**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	5	3	15

**Existing Controls**

- Weather conditions are monitored via weather apps and our anemometer.
- Course may be closed if severe weather such as lightning/storms/strong wind is forecast in the area.
- Lightning app notifies of any strikes within 20 miles.
- If lightening is within 20 miles, is seen, or thunder heard. The ropes course is closed until at least 30 min after last strike is seen/heard.
- Course closed if wind speed is forecast to exceed safe limits - 30mph (App Windfinder/Accuweather)
- In the event of a closure due to extreme weather, rescue team will assist those on the course get down as quickly as possible. Team will communicate via radios and participants will be given clear information about the closure.

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
Constant	5	1	5

**Notes**

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Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope course	14

**Hazard Description**

Rescue of Customers
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**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/ bruises/Cuts/grazes Incorrect set up of equipment Falls	Public Staff
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**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency Constant	Severity 4	Probability 3	Initial Risk Rating 12
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**Existing Controls**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rescues are only carried out by Trained and certified staff - ERCA site specific Rescue</li> <li>All rescue equipment is kept ready and in good condition - Inspected each morning before opening with a full thorough inspection every 3 months</li> <li>Rescues are carried out following ERCA protocols</li> <li>All rescue staff undergo a regular review and additional training/practice for site specific rescues</li> </ul>
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**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency constant	Severity 4	Probability 1	Residual Risk Rating 4
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**Notes**

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Liam O'Hara	Compliance & Safety Officer	17/05/24	April 2025	April 2026



Reason for Assessment	Area(s) Assessed	Assessment No.
New assessment	Rope Course	15

**Hazard Description**

Staff needing Rescue

**Hazard Category(ies)****Risk Groups**

Fractures/ bruises/Cuts/grazes  
Incorrect set up of equipment  
Falls

Staff

**Risk Assessment (without control measures)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Initial Risk Rating
Constant	4	3	12

**Existing Controls**

- Two rescue trained staff are present onsite if any inspection/maintenance is due to be carried out
- Only trained and competent staff are to carry out inspections.
- As Far as is practicable all inspections are carried out from the main safety system allowing rescues following standard ERCA protocols
- If inspection or maintenance requires staff to move beyond where a standard rescue can be performed, then a rescue plan must be agreed upon in advance of work taking place

**Further Controls****Deadline**

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**Risk Assessment (taking control measures into account)**

Frequency	Severity	Probability	Residual Risk Rating
constant	4	1	4

**Notes**

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